

Solid Copy

The CW Operators Club Newsletter
April 2026 — Issue 195



YOUR PICTURE HERE!



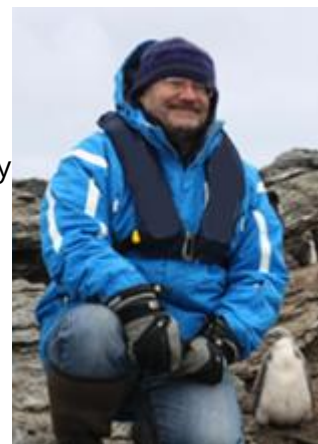
This space reserved for the *Solid Copy* door prize winner at the 2026 CWops Dinner at Dayton.

President's Message

Greetings from your new President.

How did I get here? My history is CWops' history too.

In September of 2009, (while I was on Midway Atoll) a flurry of emails came in about a topic being debated



(Continued on page 2)

CWops "CWT" 1 hour 'tests
Every Wednesday at 1300z and 1900z
Every Thursday at 0300z and 0700z
Exchange: name/number (members)
name/SPC (non-members)
Avoid DX Pileups!

CWO Mini-club callsign web site:
<http://cwomc.org>

CWops "neighborhood": Look for CWops on
1.818, 3.528, 7.028, 10.118, 14.028, 18.078,
21.028, 24.908, 28.028, 50.098 "and up"

CWops Officers and Directors

President: Don Greenbaum, [N1DG](#)
Vice President: John Glover, [W2QL](#)
Secretary: Jim Talens, [N3IT](#)
Treasurer: Craig Thompson, [K9CT](#)
Director: Bert Banlier, [F6HKA](#)
Director: James Brooks, [9V1YC](#)
Director: Raoul Coetzee, [ZS1C](#)
Director: Riki Kline, [K7NJ](#)
Director: Allan Mason, [VK2GR](#)
Director: Theo Mastakas, [SV2BBK](#)
Director: Ken Tanuma, [JN1THL](#)
WebGeek: Dan Romanchik [KB6NU](#)
Newsletter Editor: Dick Strassburger, [N9EEE](#)

Table of Contents

President's Message	1
Editor's Notes: Dits and Dahs	3
Message from our Secretary	4
Annct: CWops Dayton Dinner	5
Annct: NA CW Weekend	8
Ops News and Notes	10
How We Were: W8FN	16
CE3FJK: Brute Forcing Your CW Learning	17
AJ8B: What is AI and What Can I Do With It?	20
K8XCO: My Other Hobby Is...Stained Glass ...	27
QRV: CWops DX	30
Keyed Up	32
New Members	33
Giving Back	34
CW Academy	36
Hamming It Up	40
CWT Update	41
CWops Member Awards	43
QTX: The Art of Conversational CW	48
My Story: New Member Introductions	51



(Continued from previous page)

on another club's reflector. Many USA stations were upset and talk soon turned to forming a new club where politics were forbidden and that rule would be enforced.

By November, the original 8 members, including N3JT, W1RM, N6XI and me, had picked a name, established the bylaws and filed for incorporation. Our official birthday is December 18, 2009, when we were approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia. We later secured IRS Sec 501c(7) status as a non-profit club so that dues paid are not taxable as income to the club. Rob, K6RB suggested we start a website, an email reflector and each of these members worked together to come up with a list of 40-50 founding members.

Those founding members chose officers, directors and launched a club with a functional infrastructure. They also suggested more members for the club and by December 29, 2009 the Charter member list was up to 147 members (as denoted by members 1-147). While writing this letter, it's sad to note all the SKs on that list.

Shortly thereafter we developed an invitee list of 316 more prospective members and sent out the invitation letter. It directed those interested to visit the website where they were greeted by our founding purposes that remain true today: "Welcome to the CW operators' Club (CWops) application information page. The purposes of the Club are to encourage CW activity, to foster goodwill among CW operators worldwide, and to educate others about CW...."

Art, KZ5D, our first VP and activities chairman, immediately came up with an idea for the members to meet each other on the air for one hour a month on the second Wednesday of each month. It was called the mini-CWT and the first took place on January 2, 2010. By the end of January, membership grew to over 600 members. And of course we no longer have only 1 mini-CWT a month. In CWTs, I am always glad to see all the non member participants. Let's get them signed up.

For 15 years I have been chairman of the nominating committee picking others to do the management of our club. This time the directors filled an opening in the Presidency office and I am pleased I now have the time to accept this honored position. The board, CWA volunteers, activities, and award managers have this organization running like a fine oiled clock. I'll do my best not to screw things up. I spent over 50 years in banking, high tech and the drag racing industry. All 3 careers required team work.

That is my management style. I will not "own" any idea. I will always work with the consensus of those on the board. I will lead and ensure things get carried to completion, but I will not impose any agenda on the club. I will also come with some ideas on how to continue the growth of our club. I plan to send articles to the various worldwide magazines like Funk Amateur and CQ Japan describing our history and goals. Our sponsorship of CW contest plaques can expand to foreign contests and is good advertising of our club. How big is our "market"? In last fall's CQWW CW contest there were 53,536 unique calls in 192 DXCC entities for a total of 5.1M QSOs! There are tens of thousands of participants in the DXCC CW program. And then there are the CW ragchewers. We have just scratched the surface of eligible members and our extremely successful CWA keeps bringing in more CW operators.

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This is your club. In last fall's election we only had 169 members vote. Thousands of members and only 169 felt choosing our officers was important. We must do better. I will bug you to do better. By the time you read this there will be a new button in the members-only area of the website. It's a link to submit comments. Have a gripe? Have a question for the board? More importantly, do you have an idea on improving the club and increasing our visibility? I do not claim to know everything. Help me out. Help the club out. Consider volunteering. Keep in touch. I promise to listen.

73, Don, N1DG, President (CWops #2)

SC

Editor's Notes: Dits and Dahs

So, what do you do when two stations on the same frequency call CQ in the CWTs? This happened to me recently. I thought, "why not a 2-for-1?" and proceeded to respond. Both came back to my call simultaneously. I replied with my name and member number simultaneously. And I received a "TU" simultaneously. They're both in the log. Yes, this DID occur on April 1, but it was no joke. Is this a ST2C (Single Transmit 2 Contact)?

You won't have to hunt through this issue of Solid Copy looking for an April Fool's prank. We've been beat. I was surprised at the number and depth of ham radio-related April Fools pranks that appeared across the "hamverse" this year. POTA is now pay-to-play. The FCC has given full phone and band privileges to Technicians. And the ARRL is allowing D-Star DX contacts on both simplex and network. (I was invited to participate in that late breaking news release on the [DX Mentor](#)).

This is an update for those who elected me to the Director, North America position. I want to express my sincere appreciation for your vote of confidence and the trust you placed in me. I had every intention of serving you effectively on the Board. However, after a few weeks, I made the decision to step down for personal reasons. As a result, Riki, K7NJ, was appointed as my replacement – a position he has held in recent years. I wish him all the best.

This does not affect my role as your editor of *Solid Copy* nor my involvement in CW Academy or various other volunteer activities I am involved in CWops.

Unrelated to the above, you'll be seeing the President's Message authored by Don Greenbaum, N1DG, from this point forward as he'll be serving that role in place of Mark Wohlschlegel, WC3W. You can read more about these changes in the Secretary's Message appearing on page 4.

73, Dick N9EEE, (CWops #3113)

Editor, Solid Copy

SolidCopy@cwops.org

Message from our Secretary, N3JT

Our club was founded in 2010 and has grown to over 3,000 current members, a remarkable achievement attributable to a large cadre of experienced and committed CW operators who contribute considerable time and energy to the cause. Our foundational training program, CW Academy, coupled with regular on-air CWT sessions, encouragement to ragchew, annual state of the art awards, support for CW performance in contests, scholarships, social events – and of course *Solid Copy*, the best such publication in amateur radio -- combine to produce a CWops organization that promotes goodwill among amateurs throughout the world and assures that CW will remain a viable and active mode long into the future.

CWops' management team consists of well-known and enthusiastic directors and officers in all of the world's continents where amateurs are active. We work in a culture of consensus, with the president, vice president and directors elected by you, the members. The secretary and treasurer are appointed by the board of directors. Sometimes, we have some difficulty recruiting directors or officers, which is why we have a nominating committee. Last year, we identified Mark, WC3W, #3525, as president to succeed Stew, GW0ETF, #919, after Stew's two exceptionally successful terms. We also had an election for a North America director, won by Dick, N9EEE, #3113, (to replace Riki, K7NJ, #275, who came in second in the election).

Both Mark and Dick decided to step down, leaving their respective positions vacant. By our By-laws, Vice President John, W2QL, #2331, became President. We are hugely fortunate that Don, N1DG, #2, has stepped forward to accept the position of Vice President. By unanimous consent of the Board of Directors, Don, N1DG, #2, was appointed as President with John, W2QL, #2331, resigning his position as President and resuming his position as Vice President. Riki, K7NJ, #275, was appointed to fill the vacant director's position.

Don, N1DG, #2, is not only an early founder of CWops. He has been instrumental in organizing, licensing and finding financing for multiple major DXpeditions. Don has deep institutional knowledge that will be uniquely valuable to our club, assuring the kind of consensus-based governance we have enjoyed since our club was created. For his part, Riki, K7NJ, #275, served as an active director during his previous term, also managing the annual state of the art award that has gained worldwide attention. We should all be very pleased that Don and Riki will be part of the management team as we continue to spread the love of CW in amateur radio.

Jim Talens, N3JT, #1

Secretary

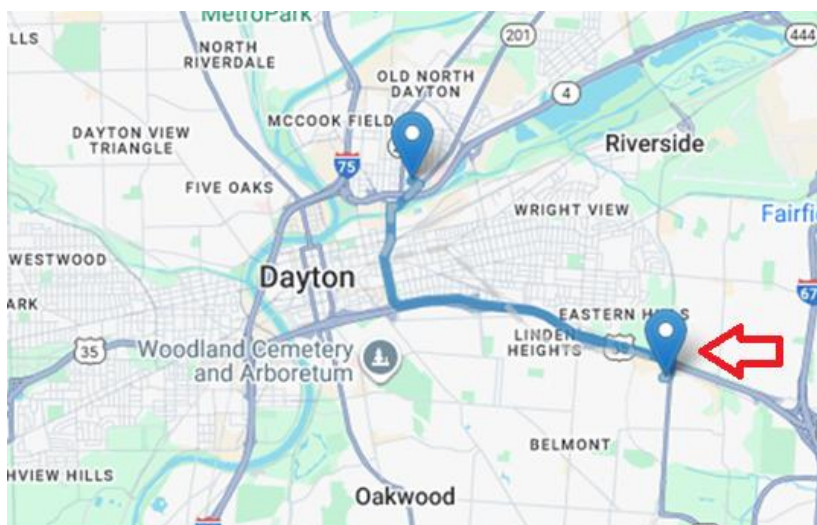
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

2026 Dayton Hamvention CWops Annual Dinner

Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 pm (6 pm Happy Hour)

This is the major CWops social gathering of the year, where you can meet face-to-face many of the CWops operators you know from on-air contacts or know from other events over the years. This year we have a new, brighter, larger, more upscale venue for our premier CWops social event. It is **The Galleria Event & Conference Center**, 4140 Linden Ave., Rt 35 & Woodman Dr., Dayton, OH. We again will have our excellent caterer, Rob, who will provide us with an expansive and delicious buffet-style dinner!

There are photos of The Galleria at www.thegalleriaevents.com. It is a lovely facility that will be a delight for all who attend.



As you can see, The Galleria (identified by the pointer adjacent to "Linden Heights" on the map) is only a few minutes from the Hope Hotel and Conference Center, considerably closer than was the Rona Catering Hall in Fairborn last year. And of course there is plenty of parking at The Galleria.

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Many may recall we used to hold our CWops dinners at the Spaghetti Warehouse in downtown Dayton, but our need for more space necessitated a new approach, meaning something larger than a restaurant. We found the Rona Catering Hall, a private event venue in nearby Fairborn, Ohio, not very far from the Hope Hotel and Conference Center. Due to the continued success of the dinner, we decided to find a larger facility that could better accommodate our growing attendance. The Galleria fits the bill, and it is closer to the Hope Hotel and Conference Center. The additional good news is that the event price this year is only \$50, which covers our catering and facility costs.

Following dinner, we will feature what promises to be a terrific slate of speakers. Then, at the end of the evening, we will conduct our fabulous door prize program, thanks to donations from CWops members, manufacturers, and dealers.

The CWops Hamvention dinner at The Galleria is the CWops social event of the year! Feel free to invite guests! There will be room for everyone.

Folks are welcome to arrive at or after 6 p.m for Happy Hour. Dinner will commence promptly at 7 pm. Be sure to wear your CWops name badge (or any other club name badge).

(Note that The Galleria venue adheres to and enforces Ohio alcoholic beverage laws, which are quite strict. We are told that if beer or wine is brought into the facility, we either must have a bartender serve it or it must be consumed outside – and we will not have a bartender!)

The cost of the dinner is \$50 per person. You may make your reservation by clicking on the payment box to the right or the link below. A guest should be registered with a second registration purchase and designated with your call sign and the suffix -2 (for example W1HRB-2).

There are no physical tickets as such; we will have a list of those who have paid. You will see we are using Stripe rather than PayPal because it is vastly easier, handles credit cards and provides payment tracking. Gerry, W1VE, will maintain the list of attendees. While not preferred, PayPal can be used but please select “family and friends” when making your payment. Send payment to paypal@cwops.org. There can be no refunds because we will be giving the caterer an attendance number that will serve as the basis for our club payment.

Payment link => [CWops Store](#)

View our menu and registered attendees on the next page.

2026 Annual Dayton Dinner

\$50 per ticket



Annual Dayton Dinner

\$50

Buy

Supported payment methods:



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Here is our buffet dinner menu, which is even more expansive than last year:

Appetizers: Meatballs, cheese display

Meal: Mixed green salad (with 4 dressings)

Vegetable medley

Chicken parmesan

Roast beef (with gravy)

Vegetarian lasagna

Roasted baby potatoes

Dessert: Blueberry (sugar-free), apple, pecan, cherry pie

Beverages: Iced tea, water, coffee, lemonade (sweetened) – and sodas at \$1 each

It is not too early to reserve your spot for the 2026 CWops dinner! See you there!

73, John Glover, W2QL (#2331) and **Jim Talens**, N3JT (#1)

Registrants, as of April 6:

AA3R	K3GG	KE8EON	N8DNA	W8AJS
AC4NK	K3TN	KF7WX	N8EA	W8FN
AC4NK-2	K3WJV	KF8BYK	N8KDC	W8UY
AC6AC	K3WJX	KJ5CMP	N9EEE	W8WZ
AC8RG	K3YD	KJ5CMS	NA2MM	W9NXM
AD8J	K4CBW	KJ5T	NA8V	WA1NLG
AE7I	K4EAK	KM4CH	NF8M	WA1VQY
AF1E	K4GM	KM4FO	NJ3K	WA3AER
AF1E-2	K4PI	KN2D	NK4O	WA4PGM
AG3I	K4QS	KO4VW	NM5M	WB0SND
AJ1DM	K4QU	KP4DX	NR4M	WB2UZE
AJ6V	K6ZO	KT1OK	NR4P	WC3W
AJ8B	K7NJ	KV8Q	VE3EJ	WD5JR
AK4SQ	K7NJ-2	N1CC	VE3MGY	WE4AUB
HB9EGA	K7SV	N1CC	VE3YT	WG3J
K0HB	K8VAN	N1DG	W0ZB	WG4V
K0OO	K8WWS	N1RM	W1HRB	WN7S
K0PC	K9EZ	N2KKU	W1HRB-2	WR7Q
K0TG	K9GY	N2KW	W1VE	WS1L
K0VBU	K9VEG	N2MA	W1WEF	WU8T
K0XV	K9WO	N2YO	W2APF	WW2I
K1FV	K9WX	N2YO	W2APF-2	
K1GU	KA0WWT	N3AM	W2GD	
K1MT	KB0LNA	N3EDO	W2MV	
K1SEI	KB0QEP	N3JT	W2QL	
K1SM	KB6NU	N3RD	W2RQ	
K1UI	KB8GAE	N4CWZ	W3TB	
K1ZJA	KC4D	N4LSJ	W4CMG	
K2CJ	KC7V	N5TJ	W4WF	
K2EJ	KC9YL	N5VOF	W6JIM	
K2GO	KD1MD	N7TY	W7EVE	
K3CT	KD1MD-2	N7US	W7JET	

North America CW Weekend

[Don Lynch](#), W4ZYT (CWops #55)

Yes, there will be a North American CW Weekend this year!

As in the past, the Weekend is primarily aimed at those amateur radio operators with a particular interest in Morse code (CW) operation - FOC, CWops, SKCC, FISTS - anyone with an interest in Morse code communication is welcome.

We are delighted to welcome regulars back, and look forward to meeting some new players.

There is a nominal registration of \$25 per couple or \$15 per single person. This will help defray costs and fees. Any excess will be donated to the CWops Scholarship fund. Please send your check, made out to Don Lynch W4ZYT at 1517 West Little Neck Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452-4717.

QUESTIONS/INQUIRIES:

Email any questions to Don at: w4zyt.don@gmail.com

Event Summary

Start Date: Thursday, June 11, 2026

End Date: Monday, June 14, 2026

Hotel Information

Fairview Park Marriott (This has been the usual for the past several years)

3111 Fairview Park Drive

Falls Church, VA 22042

Phone: 703-849-9400

Rate: \$ 129.00 plus taxes/night (Friday/Saturday)

Reservations: 800-228-9290 (Event Block is: North American CW Weekend)

Here is a reservation link. 1-800-627-7468. If you have problems with this link, please call 1-855-297-1430. Book your group rate for North American CW Room Block

Last Day to Book at the Group Rate: Friday, May 15, 2026



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Program Details

There will be a hospitality suite between 1800-2400 on Friday and Saturday with refreshments and snacks available, plus plenty of collegiality and good conversation.

Friday Evening (6/12) at 1800

Pizza

Pines of Florence (new this year!)

6852 Old Dominion Dr,

McLean, VA 22101 .

Salad, beverage (non-alcoholic), unlimited pizza. Alcohol available.

Dress casual. Individual checks

Saturday Brunch (6/13) from 0900 to 1200

Brunch

Home of

Nina Lane, K4NML and Jim Talens, N3JT

6017 Woodley Road

McLean, VA 22101

Phone 703-241-1144

Saturday Dinner (6/13) from 1800 until...

Metro 29 Diner

4711 Lee Highway

Arlington, VA 22207

703-528-2454

Don't be put off by the "Diner" moniker. Take a look at the menu at their website at <https://metro29diner.com/>. This is an informal place with a class kitchen and a full selection of meal options which should suit every taste. Cocktails, beer, and wine available. Dress casual. Individual checks.

We are looking forward to a nice weekend and good participation. This is a nice time of year in the DC area, and there are plenty of shopping or other places of interest to visit in your free time.

Please stay safe and well, drive carefully, and come prepared for a good time.

Vy 73, Don W4ZYT



Ops News and Notes

[Duncan \(Mac\) Fiskén, G3WZD](#)

Welcome to another [Ops News and Notes](#). This is your space to let our Members know about an interesting activation, an operating award, a shiny new key or perhaps a useful gizmo that makes your CW experience even better. Please send all submissions to me at NewsAndNotes@cwops.org and remember, there's no need to wait for Dick's monthly call for articles, or my reminder. TU!

Vic, 4X6GP #5 Computer manufactured by a company called System 76 (no, I do not have one; picture captured from YouTube).



Stew, GW0ETF #919 For the many members in Canada and the UK as well as the less populated locations, the Commonwealth Contest has been a highlight now for many years. It's probably the earliest ham radio contest with the first running 95 years ago in 1931. In the early years it was known as the British Empire Radio Union (BERU) contest and was instigated and run by the RSGB. The anachronistic reference to "Empire" was removed in 1973 when it became officially known as The Commonwealth Contest. In the last couple of years, the RSGB has relinquished sole control in favour of shared governance by the whole Commonwealth.

This year the event took place over the weekend of March 14 & 15. Also happening that weekend unfortunately was a significant solar event which meant the K index was varying between 4 and 6 the whole time – not ideal for a DX contest! Ten metres in particular was badly affected but conditions in general were very challenging. But life, and contests, go on....

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Two focal characteristics of this contest are Headquarter stations and “travellers”. HQ stations are representatives of specific entities or areas such as VE provinces, VK regions or UK&CD “countries”. They are treated as unique Commonwealth entities in their own right and so can be worked by everyone including those operating from within the area (and earn bonus points); otherwise, contacts within your own area are not allowed (ie score zero). Travellers are the hardy souls who pack up each year and head off for the less frequented Commonwealth “hinterlands”. It’s a well-established tradition and Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF (#166), is a master of the art. He never misses the contest and normally operates from a far-flung region of the Commonwealth each year; this year it was Mauritius with G3WVG where they both provided the punters with 3B8.

The UK&CD HQ station calls all had the form G*6XX. In the absence of a better equipped Welsh station, I ran GW6XX. Conditions were certainly challenging and numbers were well down this year but it was never dull. The SH5 stats app tells me that from 20 countries and 207 unique calls, 49.7% of my log is UK with 29.7% from Canada and just under 10% from VK/ZL. I worked 7 x VE7/VA7 on 20m and 3 on 40m. Just 3 x VE6 on 20m. 80 metres was “difficult”! Several USA ops called and because it isn’t a hyper-rate contest I logged on paper and entered them in my station log post-contest.

Equipment was a K3S and amp running 600-700watts. Antennas all wire with a Hexbeam and dipoles/verticals. Propagation tested everyone and their kit this year and, if you want to read

Summary - GW6XX						
BAND	QSO	DUP	BONUS	HQ	POINTS	AVG
80	89	1	22	7	550	6.2
40	109	0	43	8	780	7.2
20	142	4	60	12	1180	8.3
15	43	0	27	6	350	8.1
10	3	0	3	0	15	5.0
TOTAL	386	5	155	33	2875	7.5
FINAL SCORE: 6 635						

#	Cont.	Country	Distance km	CW	QSO	500	100	80	40	20	15	10	40	50	Points	Map
1	VA	33 Grenada	6082	4									4		2.0	map
2	VA	41 United States	8120	1									1		0.3	map
3	VA	1E Canada	3250	183				14	24	03	10		115		28.2	map
4	VA	19B Bermuda	3320	4				2	1	1	1		4		2.0	map
5	VA	2F Cayman Islands	2540	4				1	1	1	1		4		2.0	map
6	VA	44 Haiti	3130	0				3	1	1	2		6		2.5	map
7	VA	1G England	740	151				53	47	17	11	3	151		16.3	map
8	VA	03 Northern Ireland	170	4				3	1	3			75		2.3	map
9	VA	04 Scotland	170	27				6	4	7	3		27		5.4	map
10	VA	06 Wales	170	8				4	2	3			4		5.1	map
11	VA	09B Mauritius	13145	1				1	1	1			3		0.8	map
12	VA	0F Kenya	7130	0				2	3	2	1		6		3.0	map
13	VA	10 Zanzibar	8540	3				3	1	3			3		0.8	map
14	VA	15 Senegal	8170	1									1		0.3	map
15	VA	207 St. Helena	7640	1									1		0.3	map
16	VA	216 South Africa	8580	1									1		0.3	map
17	VA	09 Cyprus	3760	38				3	1	3	3		10		2.9	map
18	VA	04 India	7880	4				2	2				4		2.0	map
19	VA	UK Australia	15100	28				12	9	1			20		5.1	map
20	VA	21 New Zealand	13445	17				4	13				13		4.9	map

more tales, see [here](#).

Don, 7Q6M # 1375 Congratulations to Urgent Jere 7Q6UJ #3848. Urgent passed his US Extra exam in December of last year. He had his eye on the vanity callsign W4UJ. It's official today! Urgent Jere is W4UJ. He has been accepted to two universities in the United States and is hopeful to attend Virginia Tech one day! He is currently attending Livingstonia University in Malawi. Urgent is 18 years old and is a member of CWOPS and ARRL.

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**L-R: Don 7Q6M,
Urgent 7Q6UJ,
Martha Sullivan - Virginia Tech University,
Richmond Kayange - Embangweni Mission Hospital**



Dick, N9EEE #3113 I am so delighted to receive this plaque. Thank you!



Dick, N9EEE #3113 Inclement weather and the Wisconsin QSO Party suppressed the attendance level at the Tri-County Hamfest in Jefferson, Wisconsin but it made a great opportunity to spend more time with those who showed up. My lure was to invite hams to send their name in Morse code. And for those who could not...after 60 seconds of instruction from me, they were recording their names sent in Morse code on their smartphone voice recorders to impress friends and families. Some even signed up on the spot for CW Academy.

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Paul, WA9PWP, stopped by the display table again this year for the annual CWops photo op.



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Chris, N8AI #1934 I saw a high-quality line of club-embroidered ham clothing for sale at the recent Houston Hamvention. CWops was not one of the clubs that was included in their database, so I secured a digital copy of our logo and paid \$40 to get it installed in www.hamthreads.com. After the logo was done, I bought the F217 jacket for \$55 by mail and it arrived in a couple of weeks.

I was pleasantly surprised by the quality and fit – the neck was snug and very warm, and two drawstrings at the bottom adjusted also to keep in body heat. XL fit my 220 pound frame, with 2X up to 6X available for all of us plus-sized hams....

If you are attending the San Antonio Radio Fiesta at the Schertz Civic Center May 29 - 30, HamThreads will be there.



Duncan, G3WZD/M3F #1979 Very happy with this result; UK#1 for the fourth year in a row.



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Finally, and just for a little fun, I asked the ChatGPT AI app to produce a cartoon about ham radio morse code and, with the addition of a few tweaks, this was the result.



I had ChatGPT edit the dits and dahs (originally it was dit_dit_dit dah_dah_dah dit_dit_dit!), the callsign on the cap and the framed DXCC on the wall, and add the caption, but the rest was exactly as generated by the app. I was amazed to see CW OPS on the coffee mug!

Jim, W6KC #1266 My XYL and I are about to leave on our fourth long road trip. On Monday, we begin a 73-day, 12,000 mile cross-country journey with Fogo Island, Newfoundland as our final destination. Once we complete this trip, we will have driven more than 36,000 miles over the past four years and operated from 49 states, Washington, D.C., and 10 Canadian provinces - leaving only Alaska to finish our full operating adventure.

My goal is to participate in the CWTs while we travel and to activate POTA parks in every state and province along our route. I will use the state or province in my CWT exchange so you can track our progress. My primary portable rig is an FT-991A, and my antenna is typically a 17 ft whip on a mag mount atop our SUV. I've updated my [W6KC QRZ.com](http://W6KC.QRZ.com) page with more details about our travels. I hope to log many of your calls as we make our way down the road.

Until the next News and Notes, QAC!

73, Duncan G3WZD (CWops #1979)

NewsAndNotes@CWops.org

How We Were

[Ian Capon](#), GWØKRL

W8FN, Randy Farmer, CWops #1864



"This picture, when my call was WA4TTE, was taken in (I believe) 1967, when I was a senior in high school. The station was the Emergency Operation Center located in the US National Guard Armory in Owensboro, Kentucky. As described in the accompanying text, we were doing simulated emergency traffic handling as part of one of the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test exercises. W4OYI, George Wilson III, also in the picture, would eventually become ARRL president. I still have the Brown Brothers paddle and use it regularly, especially for Field Day operation."

So now it's your turn, do you have a picture to share accompanied by a brief paragraph description, of your early days in radio, experimenting, exploring or just "being a ham". Please send it to [Ian Capon](#).

73, Ian GWØKRL (CWops #2896)

Brute Forcing Your CW Learning

[Fernando F.](#), CE3FJK/KJ5CHV (CWops #3629)

Learning CW is a journey and as such it can be enjoyed in many ways, even though the destination may or may not be the same. Some are looking to learn because of nostalgia of the original mode. Others because they want to be able to participate in worldwide contests. Whatever the reason, you will need to learn the code.

Depending on who you ask, you will receive many different suggestions on how to approach your learning. What works for one person may or may not work for you.

Learning aptitude varies from person to person and depends on the applied learning which has been created in the brain. Some learn through images, text, listening, making logical diagrams, watching somebody else doing it or by doing it themselves. Each method of learning may or may not produce the same results. Each method affects comprehension and memory differently¹.

Understanding the learning approach will help you subsequently, as when you are faced with difficulties, making progress beyond certain levels becomes a limiting factor. You need to appreciate that it could be time to change the approach to a different method or simply taking a break for a while. Always keep in mind that your journey will be different and unique.

At the beginning, you start searching the Internet for information on how to learn CW. Many topics and diverse advice can be found online and some of them are a valid starting point. Asking around at the local radio club and Elmers are also good ideas. The key is to find what works for your unique learning ability, as learning literally changes the strength of neural connections, and since each person has different experiences, their brain wiring develops differently².

My journey started when I really wanted to learn CW. I found it would be hard for me, as throughout my life, I was told I was tone-deaf. When looking back, I remember when in early school, I was brought into the class chorus to perform in an event. We performed daily rehearsals, but I started to realize that I wanted to get to higher pitch or notes. Unfortunately, I could not, and I kept trying. I became aware I was not helping the team. In fact, it felt just the opposite. I informed the teacher that I thought I was not performing as I would like and believed the team was better without me.

Fast forward to the present day and I have learnt CW has some musical components. The sounds may be hard to start learning, as I have issues recognizing tones and sounds. That may be explained due to a physical issue, such as hearing loss which has never been detected. or could be explained by peripheral hearing loss or lack of exposure to music³.

Even because of these issues, I understood the path would still be interesting and challenging for me and therefore I decided to give it a try.

The very first thing I did was to buy a new "Vibroplex Junior Warrior" to practice sending at 10 wpm, having it connected to the HF radio.

The second thing I did was to print out a copy of the [abecedary](#) and their associated CW sending pattern. I plastic laminated it and started reading them aloud and memorizing them.

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After months of trying to memorize the letters and patterns, I was somehow able to recognize some letters. I started realizing I was counting the dits or dahs. Basically, my brain was not learning, but becoming fundamentally a prediction machine, that is continuously trying to find patterns. I came to realize that learning is the brain's attempt to find structure in complexity⁴ or cheating its way through.

I started to take breaks during the process, one week, sometimes a few days and even months. Then to my surprise, when returning after these breaks, I was picking it back up, memorizing and sending again. I soon realized that after those breaks, the learning was somehow solidifying⁵. Instead of me forgetting, I was improving the base skills, for the next set of characters to memorize and how to send them properly.

I found the CWops organization. I signed up for my first basic class. I realized I was doing what you are not supposed to do. Learning the letter by looking at them, instead of hearing. I became aware of the importance of regular training and study. I managed to pass the class and then one year later I enrolled in the next level and to my surprise I completed it. I then decided it was time to take my study more seriously. Personally, I like challenges, so I went for a complete year of regular training. My focus was that I would not do any SSB during the whole year, only CW contacts. My internal challenge to myself was set.

Having learned "how to learn" by going through the CWops classes and getting the very best learning materials and resources, the path was clear. I was sure I was going to go full CW.

At that time, I felt weak on copying and more confident about sending. I was sending at 25 wpm and listening to the same speed, but with more spacing between characters, using the Farnsworth method⁶.

My plan was daily training from Monday through Friday and optional Saturdays, three times a day for periods of no more than seven minutes each session.

I started combining the following learning tools:

- LCWO.org Morse machine: twice a day, 5 minutes at 35 wpm
- MorseRunner: 3-4 letter US call signs, 7 minutes, 3 times a day at 30-35 wpm
- ARRL 40 wpm code archive listening. It was right before going to sleep as sleep after learning promotes the consolidation of newly acquired information and enhances memory performance⁷
- Listening to an old ARRL recording that went through the abecedary, letter by letter and then sending the code. I was listening to this while I was running 5K, three times a week
- Make at least one QSO daily, listen and listen to the station until the call signs were confirmed and proceed with a short canned standard QSO. (callsign, signal report, name.)
- Practice sending everyday and before going live, using the Daily Morse Code 'Scales' Sending Warm Up from Bob Carter, WR7Q

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After going through drills for a year and making at least CW QSO daily, I was finally feeling increasingly comfortable. I fell in love with CW. It was no longer a tabu and all of a sudden I started to get tired of SSB and some occasional bad practices. I realized after the second year of CW-only per option this time, I was just listening SSB and then I was back right on to the lower portions of the bands calling CQ.

I am still learning and now I keep training with Morse Runner a few times a week at 35-40 wpm for sessions of 5 minutes.

Through this journey I realized that I was able to send with both hands. I am right-handed but anytime I was having issues with a combination of characters, I used my left hand. Somehow my brain rewired and I learned the mechanics. I researched the topic and found that executing movement using your nondominant side helps learning motor skills through cross-education/interhemispheric transfer⁸.

For copying or listening, it really helps using a passive or active noise cancelling headset, because you can use less brain power for trying to listen and use the available cycles for brain copying.

Along the way you will find that sometimes you will copy what you *think* you heard, but it is not what was being *sent*.

As time goes by, trust your instinct.

You will eventually develop that sixth sense. You need to be able to shut down your brain and use your gut instinct, ninety nine percent of the time. You will copy correct with your instinct, rather than your brain. Literature and advisors call this "Instant character recognition". This is when you no longer try to decode individual characters, but you know for certain what it means, i.e. CQ, RST, NAME.

Copying above 30 wpm is a must for certain individuals to be able to trick the brain into not counting dits and dahs but memorizing the entire word. That is what I found to be the key.

Finally, I cannot conclude without mentioning that the key aspect to learning – there is no secret.

It comes down to just training regularly and being patient. If your second language is not English, then you will need to decode two times. Please believe me - If I can do it, anybody can learn to master it. Through my own journey, I found it possible through brute force learning. Basically, I tried several different methods and techniques, until some of them started to work for me.

My greatest appreciation goes for the CWops organization which strives daily to keep the novel art of CW alive.

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What Is AI and What Can I Do With It?

[Bill Salyers](#), AJ8B (CWops #1567)

Most of us have been overwhelmed with advertising and articles describing AI, what it can do, and how it might affect our lives. I thought it was time to share some information on this technology.

For the typical user, AI “engines” can be accessed via a website or an app. There are several free AI tools that you can use including ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and Grok. If you are a Microsoft Office user, you may have been introduced to Copilot. For the sake of this article, we will discuss ChatGPT.

What we are not going to do is to deep dive into what makes AI work, Large Language Models, and other buzzwords.

To start with, What Can ChatGPT Do? ChatGPT is great for:

- Writing (emails, essays, stories, scripts)
- Explaining concepts (math, science, history, tech)
- Studying and tutoring
- Coding help (examples, debugging, explanations)
- Translation and language practice
- Summaries and rewrites
- Brainstorming ideas (business names, content ideas, solutions)

Think of it as a general-purpose helper, not an all-knowing oracle.

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How do you Start Using ChatGPT?

1. Open ChatGPT (www.chatgpt.com) in your browser or app
2. You will see a query box, something like “What can I help with?”
3. Type your question or request
4. Press **Enter** (or send)

That’s it—you’re already using it.

The correct way to ask a question or request information (known as **the prompt**) is the real trick to using ChatGPT. The quality of the answer depends on how you ask.

For instance, this would be an example of a Vague prompt:

“Explain Ham Radio.”

Here is a better prompt:

“Explain Ham Radio to a junior high student in simple terms with examples.”

Here is an even better prompt:

“Explain ham radio to a 45-year-old person with a professional background with examples.”

Try it – the difference is amazing!

The difference between this and just using a search engine like Google is that Google will return items that it finds on the web where ChatGPT **creates** content for you. At the end of the answer, you can click a link to copy the answer to the windows clipboard, have it provide further research, create a presentation, or even create images.

Here are a few tips for strong prompts to return better results.

- Be Specific
- Give Context
- Say what format you want (list, steps, essays, table, etc.)

Here are some common prompt examples

Asking for explanations

“explain a superheterodyne receiver like I am 12 years old .”

Writing help

“Rewrite this paragraph to sound more friendly.”

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Learning & studying

“Describe two ways to learn morse code”

“Quiz me on ham radio, one question at a time.”

Coding

“Write a simple HTML page with a button.”

You can reply back to the results you get to help refine the answer in the prompt window. You don't have to start over if the answer isn't perfect.

In the prompt window, you can say:

- “Make it shorter”
- “Explain it more simply”
- “Give me more examples”

(ChatGPT remembers the context of the conversation)

Here are a few things to keep in mind if you use ChatGPT

- **ChatGPT is not perfect**
 - It can make mistakes
 - It may sound confident even when wrong
 - Always double-check important facts
- **Privacy tip**
 - Don't share passwords, personal IDs, or sensitive private info
- **Knowledge limits**
 - It may not know very recent events depending on the model and settings

Best Practices

- Treat it like a collaborator, not a calculator
- Ask follow-up questions
- Experiment with different ways of asking
- Use it to learn *how* to think, not just *what* to answer

Example: A Full Interaction

You: “Help me write a resume summary for a junior software developer.”

ChatGPT: (Provides a draft)

You: “Make it more confident and shorter.”

ChatGPT: (Improves it)

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That back-and-forth is where ChatGPT shines

Final Thought

ChatGPT works best when you're curious, specific, and willing to iterate. There's no "perfect" prompt—just better conversations.

You probably guessed it, I used ChatGPT to compose this article. Below is the final text that I got from ChatGPT.

"If you want, I can also:

- **Tailor this tutorial for kids, teachers, or workplaces**
- **Turn it into a slide deck**
- **Make a one-page cheat sheet**

Just say the word"

(Ed note: ChatGPT uses self-created icons to emphasize points which don't translate well outside the ChatGPT window).

ChatGPT Example

Below is what I entered in the Prompt field:

"Compare and contrast wire antennas for the 160-meter ham band"

Here are the results—May be right or may be wrong, but here is what I got:

"Below is a practical, wire-antenna-only comparison for the 160-meter (1.8–1.9 MHz) band, focused on what hams can realistically build, how each antenna behaves, and where each one excels or disappoints on Top Band.

I'll stay away from towers, aluminum verticals, and exotic arrays—this is wire in trees, on masts, or near the ground."

Why 160-meter wire antennas are challenging

- Wavelength ≈ 530 ft
- Most wire antennas are electrically short
- Height is usually $< 0.15 \lambda$

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- Radiation angle and ground losses dominate performance
- Many wire antennas are excellent on receive but mediocre on DX transmit

Major Wire Antenna Types for 160 Meters

1. Half Wave Horizontal Dipole (~260 ft total)

Description - Two ~130-ft wires fed in the center, typically 40–70 ft high.

Pros

- Simple to build
- No radials or ground system
- Predictable tuning
- Good regional coverage

Cons

- High takeoff angle at realistic heights
- Weak DX performance

Radiation pattern

- Mostly straight up (NVIS-like)
- Poor low-angle radiation unless >130 ft high (rare)

Best for

- Ragchewing
- Regional nets
- Backup antenna

Bottom line: Works, but often disappointing for DX on 160 m.

2. Inverted L (Vertical + Horizontal Wire)

Description - A vertical wire (30–70 ft) with a horizontal top wire extending outward.

Pros

- One of the best wire antennas for 160 m DX
- Vertical section produces low-angle radiation
- Horizontal section adds top loading
- Much easier than a full vertical

Cons

- Needs radials or counterpoise
- Asymmetrical pattern
- Needs at least one tall support

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Radiation pattern

- Strong low-angle component
- Directional favoring the horizontal leg

Best for

- DX-oriented stations
- Properties with trees

Often the best “performance per foot” wire antenna on Top Band.

3. T Antenna (Top Loaded Vertical Wire)

Description - A vertical wire with two (or more) horizontal wires forming a “T” at the top.

Pros

- More symmetrical than an inverted-L
- Better current distribution than base-loaded vertical
- Lower loss than short verticals without top loading

Cons

- Mechanical complexity
- Requires multiple supports or spreaders
- Still needs radials

Radiation pattern

- Low-angle, fairly omnidirectional

Best for

- DX with limited height
- Stations that can support top wires

Electrically excellent, mechanically harder than an inverted-L.

4. Full Wave Horizontal Loop (~530 ft)

Description - Closed loop (square, rectangle, or irregular) fed with ladder line or coax + tuner.

Pros

- Very quiet on receive
- No ground system
- Multi-band capable with tuner
- Robust and forgiving

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Cons

- Very high radiation angle
- Large physical size
- Weak DX performance on 160

Radiation pattern

- Strong overhead radiation
- Some broadside lobes, but still high angle

Best for

- RX performance
- Regional QSOs
- Noise limited locations

Excellent listener, average talker on Top Band.

Performance Comparison Table

Antenna	TX DX	RX Noise	Space	Complexity	Notes
Dipole	Poor-Fair	Good	Large	Low	High angle
Inverted-L	Excellent	Moderate	Moderate	Low-Mod	Top wire helps
T-antenna	Very good	Moderate	Moderate	Mod-High	Symmetrical

Key Takeaways for 160-Meter Wire Antennas

- **Vertical current is everything** for DX on 160 m
- Horizontal wire antennas excel at **RX**, not TX
- Top loading dramatically improves efficiency
- Ground systems matter even with wire antennas
- RX antennas often provide bigger gains than TX upgrades

If you want, I can:

Compare inverted-L vs your current vertical

Help design a wire RX antenna that fits your property

Rank antennas specifically for DX vs ragchew vs contest use

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My Other Hobby Is...Stained Glass

[Char Lewis](#), K8XCO (CWops #3543)

The fact that ham radio became my hobby is very surprising. The fact that I became passionate about CW is less surprising. By nature, I am right-brained and my interests have generally been of a more artistic bent. So, while the technical aspects of ham radio are typically less interesting to me, the musicality CW drew me in and is responsible for keeping me involved in the hobby. Now to get back to the topic at hand. My other hobby is creating stained glass.

When I retired 8 years ago, I was looking for a hobby to fill my free time. A friend enjoyed making jewelry out of fused glass. As I explored this idea, I stumbled across stained glass. I was intrigued by the varied skills needed to complete the process and captivated by the beauty of light streaming through the colored glass. I thought that this was a hobby that might bring me many hours of enjoyment. I checked out several books from the local library, read many articles online and taught myself.

Creating stained glass involves many steps. First, you need to take an idea and translate it into a pattern that will be achievable in glass. Next come the technical aspects, cutting the glass, grinding the edges smooth and making the pieces fit together properly, foiling the edges with copper foil, soldering them all together (which is a very different process from soldering electronic components) and finally framing, cleaning and waxing the finished product. I love every step of the process. It never gets boring.



Here is a picture of my set up. My glass studio is to the right and my ham shack is to the left.

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At first, I created pieces for family and friends but two months in, I got a request to design and create a unique piece that someone actually wanted to pay me for. What a wonderful thing; I got to do something I love and get paid too! I started doing more commissions and started selling on Etsy. As I gained confidence, I contacted a local gallery to see if they might be interested in my creations. To my delight, they said yes.

I eventually combined my hobbies by creating ham related glass pieces like custom call signs...



...and ham related signs.



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Here is one of my favorite non ham related pieces.



You can see all of my creations on Facebook at Pookies Palette Crafts by Char if you are interested.

Both CW and stained glass will be a part of me for the rest of my life because the fascination remains and the creative possibilities are endless. I am so glad I found them both.

If you have an interest in either stained glass or CW, I love talking about both of them. Feel free to reach out.

QRV: CWops DX

[Bill Salyers, AJ8B](#)

My guest this month is Jay Slough, K4ZLE. Jay has been a ham radio friend for almost 40 years. I first joined the Southwest Ohio DX Association in 1988 and Jay was one of the first hams to welcome me. He is a great operator, loves the hobby and is always candid. Here is a short bio from his QRZ.com page: "First licensed in 1958 as KN4ZLE. Also held calls: WØPNF, 3AØFE, HBØXJB, KA5EE (Japan), EL2LE, TU4FB, MUØBKA, GDØK4ZLE, JT1FCX, EI4VXG, KG4MO (GTMO), 3D2SJ, T2V, VP8USA and 5X2A. Have also operated from several other countries as xxx/K4ZLE, K4ZLE/xxx or xxx/MUØBKA. Operated from 4U1ITU, PJ2T, 9L2SH, V2ARS and others. Team member of TX5C, PJ6A, KH8Q, T2T, T33A and FT5ZM, VP8SGI, VP8STI, CY9C, and CYØS. I have operated from over 40 different DXCC entities.



I enjoy building and experimenting, especially with antennas and I do a bit of QRP rig construction. While I spend more time on the air now that I am retired, I still spend more time listening and playing on the work bench than burning the ether.

Solid Copy: You are CWops member #562. Who got you into CWOPs?

Jay, K4ZLE: I was also an early member of the FISTS Club. Jim Danehy, W9VNE, introduced me to CWops. From that you should infer that I do have an interest in this mode.

Solid Copy: Did CWops have a major impact on your love of CW?

Jay, K4ZLE: I would have to say, CWops has not had a *major* impact on my love for CW. I am an old school ham. I got my Novice license in 1958 while a teenager. Before upgrading to General, I was a 20 + wpm, straight key (true J-38) novice. CW was, and still is, real ham radio. No, I am not exclusive CW. IMHO, activity on this mode is declining. Look at the ratio of spots: CW to FT8 or even CW to SSB. So, when I want to play ham radio, right now, there are many times I resort to the other modes. CW is a special, historical, language. If it is special, then those who speak it are also special.

Solid Copy: Did the CWTs help you when it came time to hit the CW portions of the DXpeditions that you have been on?

Jay, K4ZLE: I have not been a real participant in the CWTs. Therefore, I have to say, they were of no impact relative to DXpedition operation. However, after my recent participation in the CYØS, operation, I need to spend more time either in CWTs, other contests, busting pileups, using RufzXP or Morse Runner, or just getting on the air!

Solid Copy: How has CW helped or enhanced your desire to BE DX instead of just working DX?

Jay, K4ZLE: Truthfully, I cannot say CW has helped or enhanced my desire to be DX. What got me into DX was two things: First, when I got into this hobby, it was *magic*. To think I could make

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contact with someone all the way across the US or even on the other side of the globe with the simple HB oscillator TX and surplus BC455 RX I started with. It was mind boggling for my simple mind. The quest then became, "How far can I reach?" Secondly, as I started making Q's to the far regions of the world, I became more and more interested in the people and places I was contacting. Especially once I joined the Marine Corps and was making contact with Soviet bloc entities. My personal questions revolved around: what were their core beliefs, culture, history, physical/geographical environments, political policies, etc. What makes them tick?

All that to say this, I wanted "in vivo" answers to those questions. That meant I had to go there. If I am going there, why not operate from there? So, I did. Other than my first DXpeditions as HBØXJB and 3AØFE prior to my deployment to the Far East where I got to operate as KA5EE (Japan), my next trips revolved around doing radio installations for Christian missionaries and the opportunity to operate all around Europe with my real job.

Solid Copy: What would you tell a ham who is considering learning CW?

Jay, K4ZLE: **Dits** the mode **Dots** really ham radio. If you like challenges, this is the place to be. Even for us old goats, learning something new helps keep our brains nimble. With the help of CW Academy, the Long Island CW Club and many other venues, you can do it and once you do, you are part of a very elite group!

Solid Copy: Do you have any other comments about CW or CWops?

Jay, K4ZLE: This may be offensive to our really hard corps members, but CWT should not be to show how fast one can operate. If some of us would slow down just a bit, maybe we could attract some wannabes to participate and strive to really get into the fun of using the art and craft of this mode.

73, Bill AJ8B (CWops#1567)

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CW Open – September 5, 2026

The session times will be as follows:

Session 1: 00:00 UTC, Sept 5

Session 2: 12:00 UTC, Sept 5

Session 3: 20:00 UTC, Sept 5



Keyed Up

This Month's Poll

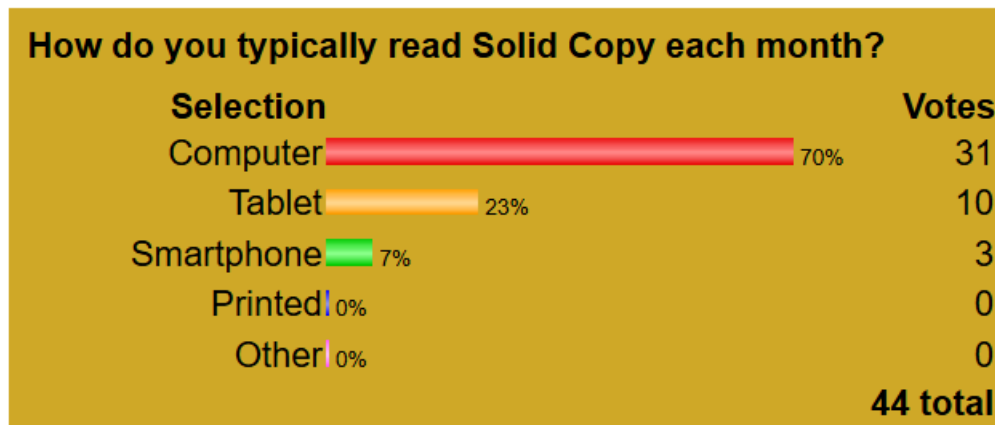
"What are the Top 3 reasons you are going to Hamvention 2026?"

(Too many choices to list here)

Take the poll: <https://cwops.org/keyed-up/>. Leave a comment.

Check the results in next month's *Solid Copy*.

Last Month's Poll



SOAPBOX

Derek, WF4I: I look forward to reading it every month. I started reading it before joining CWops. iPad lets me read it in bed. 😊

Dmitry Zhiglov: I just started to read Solid Copy journal and find lots of information that valuable for me. I do read it on computer, as PDF better optimised for this, for the handheld devices epub format probably will be more optimised.

Chris, VK3QB: I read Solid Copy every month. It covers a lot of ground and always interests and inspires. Tnx to Dick for pulling together a great read every month.

Saul, W2WHK: Thought I occasionally read on the shack computer, I prefer to relax with my iPad at the kitchen table to read Solid Copy.

New Members

Trung Nguyen, W6TN

With great pleasure we welcome the following new members to CWops:

<u>CWops</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>CWops</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>CWops</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>
3888	MØXCV*	Charlotte	3902	NØRNM*	Anne	3915	AC2YD*	Ben
3890	K2JW*	Glenn	3903	DB7AL*	Andy	3916	W1PL*	Mike
3891	G3YSX*	Stewart	3904	N7REA*	Rick	3917	LA4HIA	Ron
3892	NØTU*	Mike	3905	N1KJ*	Peter	3918	KT4UE*	Keith
3893	OK1OO*	Pavel	3906	DL3PLG*	Julian	3919	KF6I*	John
3894	KE4EW*	David	3907	DK1BZT*	Coloman	3920	W8JH*	Joe
3895	SP3GTR	Arek	3908	GØUVX*	Geoff	3921	K4TWT	Daniel
3896	W8BOY*	Chris	3909	K1GMS*	Greg	3922	AB5SE*	Jerry
3897	WØDOS*	Connor	3910	N8KH	Ken	3923	DJ5YL	Joana
3898	MØKNP	Clive	3911	G3NDS*	Ray	3924	KØXV*	Jim
3899	DL8XAB*	Andy	3912	KB5EBB*	Phil	3925	K9ID*	Ron
3900	KFØNWC*	JD	3913	N9SS*	Dave	3926	KD9KRG*	Bob
3901	N3YYZ*	Randy	3914	W4LTE*	Ed	3927	GM3YTS	Bob

* Lifetime member

As of April 7, 2026:

Need Sponsors: SA4ZAB, M5LGM

Invitations Extended: WØEAS, MØGEJ,

For more details about nominees and up-to-date status, check the ["Members only"](#) page on the website. For information about joining CWops, check the ["Membership"](#) page on the website.

Notes: If you have updated your personal info, e.g., new QTH, new callsign, or additional callsign, please send it to membership@cwops.org so I can add it to the roster. Vice versa, if your callsign becomes inactive I can remove it, too. Then the roster will be accurate and current for our usage.

73, Trung W6TN (CWops #1707)

Membership Manager

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Did your **CALL SIGN** change recently?

Did you move to a **NEW ADDRESS** or change your **NAME** ?

Congratulations!

Help us keep our **DATABASE UP-TO-DATE**

Click [HERE](#) to update your contact information.



Giving Back Update

[Rob Brownstein](#), **K6RB** (CWops #3)

CWops' Giving Back (GB) program is meant to provide on-air QSO experience and practice for anyone who wants it. It was initially intended as a way for our CW Academy students to get some on-air experience. We all know that when there is activity on the bands, these days, it's usually a DXpedition pileup or a contest. Today's CW aspirants have had little chance to work others who are skilled at CW, operate at moderate speed, and are committed to helping. That's the mission of Giving Back. The GB volunteers get on the air at approximately 7 pm local time and seek out CQers, or call CQ, and engage in routine QSOs including some conversational tidbits. The operators' schedule appears on the next page.

Here are the March 2026 results (GB hosts are shown in **bold**):

GW2CWO	R3VA IN3NSC F5NJF	G0EYO IK6NHA EU1BO	G0UBE IK1VEK UA9CTT	PA3FRC EA3VN DK7DC	IW2IRP IU3DHU	EU1TN PA3BGO	EA5JTT G4PVM
JG1UQD	JS6TUG	JF1LXO					
JJ1FXF	JH1XUP JN3CEL JS2TGK(4) JF1LXO	BH4OSA BG2HE VK3XU	JH1SBJ JH2URW JL1DZP	JK1PWT JS2OVO JA4IJ	JJ0SFV JL2SQK JA7PRZ	KE7LOY JH0NFJ(2) JH8ECQ	JF3WGG JJ0XEQ JO1UFB
JK1QYL	JO1XGM/3 JA4IJ JE1FMZ	JF1LXO JH0NFJ(3) BH4GYS	JR0KTF JR2GUI JL7VFI	JJ0SFV(2) KE7LOY(2) 7N1OEX	JL2SQK JS2TGK(8) JJ0XSA	JO1UFB JS1CII JM1MKH	JF3WGG JL1BSR JG5VIA
JM4AOA	HL1KIM JQ6EQD	JA5TXO JS2KNN	JF1LXO	JF3WGG	JJ0SFV	JK1ACN	JK1QYL
JO1DGE	BI1QGX JF6GAB JL1DZP JS6TUG	HL1MIM(2) JG1BGT JL1ING KE7LOY	JA4IJ JG5VIA JL7VFI N6TI	JA6PWF JH8ECQ JL7VFI R0LIV	JA9CJW JJ0SFV JR0KTF VK3XU	JF3WGG(2) JK0ALG JS2OVO	JF1LXO JK1WCW JS2TGK(4)
K7NJ	WB9UDL K7XU	W1PID CO2OSP	K4DR W2PDY/4	KB9PT NY4Y	N8HWW WF1A	W4NHO WA6FQJ	WS2N VE7ACW
K8UDH	KC8MFF	AK4D	W0RLY				
KV8Q	W8BJO	VE3QDA					
M0WDD	DC1YY G5REW PA3BGO	G0EUN IU3QCG PA3BGV	G3ZRJ M0IYP	G4GON M0KTZ	G4HPH M7GNO	G4YWL OE3CGR	G5END ON3APC
VK3QB	VK4DRK VK5AO VK3DA	VK3DA VK3WOW	VK3VWN VK5GG	VK2ASB VK3KEV	ZL3TK VK3BWN	VK3KEV W3FE	VK7TA VK3OU
N7DZ	KF6YAL	K6GQP					
W5DT	K4JJW	N4YG	K4MW	W1SRR	KA1EFO		
W8OV	KE9BHN AB9CA	WA9AGG WB8APR	KI6EGH WB2WIK	KC9YI	WD9DWE	KK9D	KE4EB

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7J1ATG	JF3WGG	JA4MRL	JH7TIX	7N2XZB	JH0NFJ	JH2URM	
7L2VPL	JO1XGM/3 JA4IJ	JS1CII JL2SQK	JF3WGG KE7LOY	JS1CII	JS1QIZ	JS2OVO	N6TI
7N2XZB	JO1XGM JA4IJ(2) JH2URW JQ3FRX	DS1TLZ JF1LXO(2) JA7PRZ	HL1MIM(3) JS2OVO 7K4TSL	JF3WGG(2) JE6JVC JH0NFJ	JA0CTW JK1PWT(2) JS2TGK	BH3OQQ JG6QFC 6L5TRB	BI1WJY JS2NFB JJ0SFV

Giving Back Operating Schedule - 7 PM Local

October - April: 40m & 80m | May - September: 40m & 20m

Frequencies: 7.035 - 7.039, 3.535 - 3.539, 14.035 - 14.039 MHz | JA - 7.028 +/-

UTC+10	UTC+9	UTC+7	UTC+3	UTC+2	UTC+1	UTC/BST	UTC-1	New York UTC-4	Chicago UTC-5	Denver UTC-6	Los Angeles UTC-7	Hawaii UTC-10
MON												
VK1CWO	JØ1DGE							W2XS	W8OV			
	JG1GBT											
TUE												
	JR1WYW	E25JRP		SV2BBK		GW2CWO		WE5P	K8UDH	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
	7N2XZB											
WED												
	7J1ATG							N8DD			N7DZ	
THURS												
	7N2XZB			SV2BBK				KV8Q		K7NJ		
	JG1BGT											
	JQ3FRX											
FRI												
	JK1QYL			SV2BBK		GW2CWO					K6RB	
						MØWDD						
SAT												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA JG1UQD											
SUN												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA											
	7L1VPL											



CW Academy

[Bob Carter, WR7Q](#) and [Roland Smith, K7OJL](#)

January/February Graduates



The CW Academy 2026 January / February semester has wrapped up and preparations for the May / June semester are underway. CW Academy congratulates the following students for successfully completing their eight-week training class.

127 Beginner Level students:

Andersen, Michael (N7DAY)	Faleni, Fabrizio (HB9HXH)	Martin, David (M7IPY)
Asmus, Edward (K8UKE)	Ferrario, Agustin (DC4AR)	Martin, Marcos (LU3HDM)
Atkinson, Chuck (KE5VLX)	Filler, Forrest (KD2MZH)	Mazoń, Maja (SP5MAJA)
Baker, Andrew (KJ4FOF)	Fortin, Samuel (W7STF)	Mazon, Radomir (SP5RR)
Biernacki, Grzegorz (SP5GB)	Freyer, Jonathan (N8PMR)	Megaw, Chris (VK5FR)
Bisogno, Joseph (AC2AE)	Frothingham, John (KC1VTD)	Mengel, Danny (DANNY.MENGEL)
Boardman, Rob (M7KOG)	Furtney, Dan (KM7DIX)	Mertes, Chuck (KD9DVB)
Borko, Michael Douglas (NZ2W)	Gabel, Phil (G1TAI)	Miasek, Pawel (SQ5ANT)
Bush, Brian (KK6JTZ)	Garcia, Miguel Angel (KV3H)	Miller, Michele (KC1TIW)
Caruso, SAL (WC6SAL)	Good, Julie (KØJGL)	Mitchell, Richard (NC4EN)
Caviezel, Chris (WX7EMT)	Harris, Cathy (W9SS)	Montagut, Xavier (EA5JVM)
Chapman, Lee (ZR6LC)	Hay, Aiden (VE7VCK)	More, Ron (VE3XCW)
Chesterfield, Tony (MØWND)	Hemmens, Ian (MØKFH)	Nakielski, Tomasz (SP5TEN)
Cichocki, Rob (MØTFF)	Ilas, Rolando (ROLLY329)	Nardone, Ottavio (KC1PFU)
Clarke, Kelly (KFØUFI)	Johns, Kelley (W4VPZ)	Norris, Robert (N5RLN)
Colton, Ron (W7ODO)	Kenney, Michael (KJ6KYQ)	Oberfield, Greg (N6GSO)
Crisler, Claude (KE9CVZ)	Kilpatrick, Jon (EI5JTB)	Oliphant, Tom (KØBUL)
Crowley, Darin (NY7H)	Krisztian-Terry, Michael (KF8DQS)	Otter, Ingomar (DL9ET)
Dickerson, Russell (KN4HAE)	Ladiser, Shann (KV4JJ)	Pearce, Darrin (VK3VDP)
Doyle, Michael (KE2FTG)	LAMPERD, JARED (VK2LDJ)	Perez Comendador, Jesus (DL5PC)
Dunthorne, Mick (M1CKD)	Lape, Brandon (KD3CCN)	Petrosky, Francis (KE3LA)
Dusek, Lee (G6LAD)	LeCostaouec, Yann (KFØRCZ)	Petteruti, John (KF8BYK)
Ellegood, William (K9WAE)	Lee, Ted (VE7LE)	Pritchard, Rob (G5RMP)
Equihua, Jorge (KD6JEF)	Lindsay, Keenan (K6MML)	Ramsey, Craig (KM5E)
Eschenbruecher, Robin (KO6AM)	Liston, Ron (KC7PEV)	Raney, George (KG5LRB)
Eschenbruecher, William (KO6ICD)	Lösch, Karl-Heinz (DG5WB)	Riner, Ashley (KE9CNJ)
Esteban, Paco (EA3JGQ)	Mahone, Terence (NM8A)	Rivas, Eric (AC2OK)
	Marise, Christopher (KK4BZT)	Rizov-Ciechanski, Tymon
	Marszałek, Adam (SQ5AMQ)	

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(SO5TC)	Stacke, Jonathan (KFØRVT)	Welch, Pat (KD2PER)
Rodriguez, Eliezer (KN4DXV)	Stefanczyk, Wojciech (SP9WSS)	Wilson, Joshua (W7SYF)
Rubinkiewicz, Dariusz	Steiner, Bernd (DC5BA)	Wood, Chris (GD6TWF)
(SQ5VDR)	Strug, Krzysztof (SP9RPS)	Woodruff, Steven (KO6EEY)
Rudert, William (KD3BYT)	Tyers, Bernard (EI8FDB)	Worgull, Dietmar (DK5OPA)
Russell, Rocky (KY4LO)	Tyler, Dale (W6EDT)	Wysocki, Robert (SQ5RW)
Sander, Thomas (DL1TSW)	Tyler, Toby (K9TOB)	Yarbrough, David (AI4K)
Santorowski, Bartosz (SQ6ILS)	Vale, Edgar (KJ5LLO)	Yarbrough, Debbie (K9DBB)
Schmidt, Mike (KC1VWA)	Vallance, Colin (N1CV)	Zeyner, Mario (DL4TI)
Schneck, Dennis (DD6DS)	Walkiewicz, Michal (SP9LU)	Zhiglov, Dmitry (DZMOSRU)
Scott, Bill (WS5M)	Wallace, Paul (VK1OZ)	Zilles, Nikolaus (DD1MAT)
Short, Don (ZL1DRS)	Watson, John (N2XIO)	Zonner, Wolf Peter (DL6WZ)
Sierzega, Renata (KQ4ASH)	Watts, Roy (W8ROY)	Zuza, Leandro (KF8FHZ)
Simard, Martial (VE6VOX)	Webster, Terry (KD9DWU)	
Smith, Bill (KQ1S)	Weinert, Steve (K9ZW)	
Sosna, Alexander (DM8TE)	Weisberger, Jason (NTØY)	

83 Fundamental Level students:

Acacio, David (EA3IPX)	David, Ryckewaert (F4JEP)	Lanas, Julio (EA6APL)
Ahrentropp, Ingo (DD2IA)	Davis, Jerry (NA3D)	Leerhoff, Tim (DC4TIM)
Alvarez, Noel (K2GOD)	Deen, Lewis (N5DV)	Lopez, Joan Pere (EA3AGK)
Aranda Flores, Jordi (EA3IZQ)	Denham, Robert (KE7FTF)	Lopez, Pedro (KJ5JAR)
Augustynek, Michał (SQ9ALW)	Dörschel, Holger (DL9HDA)	Loza, Joaquin (EA3IXE)
Bartocha, Marek (SP6OS)	Drudis-Sole, Gali (EA3ISL)	Lutherer, Oliver (DK5OL)
Baxter, Blaine (W7BTR)	Gallagher, Gregg (AE4GG)	Mahaffey, Joe (W4JOD)
Beauchamp, Del (WW2MI)	González, Juanjo (EA3HIG)	Mason, Allen (K6AGW)
Betz II, John (KI5YIF)	Groves, Robert (NB4F)	McIntosh, Stuckey (KV4UR)
Biernacki, Anthony (Buzz)	Hachey, Paul (KC4YRV)	Miasojedow, Pawel (SP5DNA)
(KB5ZLY)	Hagan, Samuel (AE2YG)	Middendorf, James (KR4ANA)
Boortz, Benjamin (DA1BB)	Hering, Marc (KE2MT)	Mirsberger, Hans (DM5LA)
Branchfield, Mike (KBØNVR)	Hofmann, Petra (KE9DDT)	Mohneke, Andre (DL6HBQ)
Brinker, Christopher (K3AV)	Ignaczak, Szymon (SP7SMN)	Pasquarello, Vincent (KX4SR)
Broeders, Rene (VE3DHZ)	Iler, Brian (NA6ER)	Pippa, Rio (KM7CPE)
Butch, Matthew (KV3JGB)	Irwin, Scott (W8UFO)	Planella, Joan (EA3ICD)
Castro, Pedro (W1RNA)	Jeczalik, Michal (SQ9MJ)	Pye, Chris (VA1PYE)
Chivers , Chuck (VE3VSA)	Jewell, Paul (MW7PAJ)	Quillen, Paul (N4LCD)
Corbett, Calvin (VE7CTE)	Jurczyk, Piotr (SQ9OKG)	Rager, Ryan (AF4O)
Courtney, Wade (N5WAC)	Klimczyk, Marek (SP9TKW)	Rahman, Kori (WX5KR)
Cowan, Daniel (AJ7GF)	Klingler, Shane (N8ZGM)	Rodriguez, Franc (C31FR)
Croon, Gregory (WB2O)	Klink, Larry (KD2TLR)	Rosen, Marc (KM7AZ)
Das, Debajyoti (VU3LGT)	Kolovson, Curt (W6RQ)	Sands, Matt (KGØAT)
David, Nauleau (F4GBY)	Labuda, Kevin (SP2HF)	Schaal, Mathias (DD6MZ)

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Scherr, Jim (KL2JH)
Seymour, Gavin (AB3SE)
Sharp, Jake (WJ4I)
Skrzypkowski, Paweł (SQ2IPS)

Smith, Kory (N3ZKI)
Spring, Christina (AK6DU)
Tennis, Joe (KJØTEN)
Turek, Barnaba (SQ5BTU)

Tyler, Tim (KI5OOS)
West, James (W2JJW)
White, Kristie (W7MIX)
Wyluda, Paul (WY4LD)

57 Intermediate students:

Altenrenger, Urban (DK5UA)
Andersen, Eric (N4JP)
Anding, Jeff (KG5EED)
Anjiolino, Eduardo (PY2MP)
Baibakis, John (SV1PIZ)
Balan, Dileep (DL2AJ)
Bates, Marlin (N6MIV)
Bishopp, Richard (KD2UBJ)
Black, Cliff (K4JIP)
Booth, Jane (GM7EST)
Bourne, Chris (G4ETK)
Breitsch, Nathan (KF8EZQ)
Campbell, Jim (VE1KM)
Charbonneau, Ron (M8RGC)
Christensen, Carl (WA8RSG)
Collins, Steven (KJ2G)
Dauphinais, Jer (K6GQP)
Daze, Don (N5DD)
de Goede, Dick (PA1DI)
Durovic, Ilia (VK5ISO)

Elawar, Munir (N3PQ)
Epps, Kevin (VK3KEV)
Faust, Ivan (VA2EYD)
Gamble, Thomas (M5LGM)
Gracey, Kiersten (K1KIG)
Harvey, Tim (VA3UZ)
Ilczuk, Michal (SQ2MO)
Jenkins, Tom (W2TJ)
Johnson, Steve (KN6HI)
Kaszyca, Kamil (SP5LEG)
Kline, Peter (K3MTT)
Konstantinos, Adamos (SV4RTG)
Leeman, Stephan (SM5YRA)
Levering, Bas (PE4BAS)
M., Richard (YO3GND)
Marwick, Ben (WA7BEN)
McCann, Jim (W9JRM)
McCarn, Todd (KQ4SGV)
Mcdonley, Alan (WBØZJJ)

Mcmanaway, Joshua (KE9DQQ)
Mcneill, David (N7WMN)
Miranda, Omar (ND1Q)
Nik, Dimitris (SV6TAC)
Olbrych, Peter (KR4CGG)
Oliver, Ray (G3NDS)
Pierson, Jim (N1SZ)
Pouli, Aikaterini (SV2TCC)
Sardaños, Eliel (LU3ELY)
Schuh, David (VE7CQY)
Semmens, James (VK7JZ)
Siegel, Michael (DM6MS)
Smith, Gary (VE4YH)
Sriča, Damjan (S52DT)
Stearns, Ben (KC1UEK)
Whitcomb, Kenneth (N8KDC)
Williams, Shane (NØQLR)
Wright, John (MØRTU)

59 Advanced students:

Bailey, Ben (K4BGB)
Barker, Chloë (MØGEJ)
Bear, Jonathan (KN4CW)
Berman, Dave (WA2PAY)
Bertz, Dave (KE8QFO)
Blackett, Steve (KL7VX)
Bock, Andreas (DL8XAB)
Bromley, Sally (WQ5T)
Bryant, Stewart (G3YSX)
Burls, Clive (MØKNP)
Burton, Noah (W1NGO)
Chrobot, Zbigniew (SP3UQW)
Consorti, Jean (AD2EK)

Conte, Maxwell (WG4L)
Dann, Peter (VK3WOW)
Dastoor, Phiroze (KD5YIA)
Donahue, Patti (KE7IR)
Drapos, Coloman (DK1BZT)
Fisher, Carolanne (NØRNM)
Hagerdon, Randy (N3YYZ)
Hendley, Drady (N8VU)
Hernandez, Christopher (W8BOY)
Hudson, Glenn (K2JW)
Huyton, Charlotte (MØXCV)
Illhardt, Klaus (VK3IU)

Immel, David (KE4EW)
Jennings, Joseph (KEØM)
Jones, Mike (KCØMJ)
King, Roger (MØLKR)
Kish, Jd (KFØNWC)
Kosciolowski, Arkadiusz (SP3GTR)
Lawson, Peter (N1KJ)
Lohr, Andreas (DB7AL)
Martin, Andrew (AJ7CM)
Miller, Dave (N9SS)
Nuzum, Jay (N1CFY)
Papciak, Doug (KI4VDU)

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Pavlovski, Mishel (Z31PM)	Smith, Graham J (G4NMD)	Vasile, Julian (DL3PLG)
Pleace, Eric (KO4ZSD)	Smith, Gregory (K1GMS)	Vause, Stan (ZL3TK)
Puzick, Phil (KB5EBB)	Stewart, Michael (NØTU)	Vickers, Daniel (K4TWT)
Rankin, Will (AJ7HI)	Sulonen, Kevin (N7KV)	Wolf, Bryce (N9WF)
Rea, Rick (N7REA)	Tiwari, Manish (VU2EH)	Woodford, Denise (VA7YE)
Rosen, Richard (W2BZ)	Valentine, Geoffrey (GØUVX)	Železo, Pavel (OK1OO)
Simpson, Mark (NR7R)	van Eckert-schoof, Johanna	Zuza, Lucas (PY4ZL)
Singh, Puneit (VU2TUM)	(DJ5YL)	

CW Academy would not be possible without the volunteer services of dedicated and passionate advisors. Fifty-four advisors taught sixty-nine classes this past semester, including classes taught in English, Catalan, German, Greek, and Polish:

English

Benesh, Andrew (KM4CAJ): Beginner
Bergstrom, Peter (K6PB): Fundamental
Blain, Bruce (K1BG): Beginner
Bradley, William (GI5RSS): Beginner
Carter, Bob (WR7Q): Intermediate
Chandler, Korey (W5HI): Fundamental
Chapman, Chris (VK3QB): Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced
Coleson, Jeffrey (KE8NJW): Beginner
Curley, James (KE8EON): Fundamental
Freuler, Robert (KM4JEG): Beginner
Fristad, A. Chris (KT9N): Fundamental
Godden, Roy (KK6M): Fundamental, Intermediate
Hain, Thomas (KV8Q): Beginner
Harton, Marcus (N3VO): Beginner
Hedgepeth, Kevin (NB7O): Beginner
Herter, Christian (KF7WX): Intermediate
Horn, Randy (N1SP): Intermediate
Kasper, Brian (VA3IK): Beginner
Kazmarek, Skip (K4EAK): Beginner
Koch, David (W8OV): Beginner
Lewis, Charlene (K8XCO): Fundamental
Marquie, Steve (W8TOW): Beginner
McArthur, David (MØWDD): Fundamental
McArthur, Gregg E (W7GEM): Beginner
Merkel, John (AJ1DM): Intermediate
Mitchell, Ken (KD2KW): Beginner
Mozdzen, Tom (K7MOZ): Intermediate
Pattinson, Tony (VE2KM): Beginner, Fundamental, Intermediate
Plantz, Bruce (K9OZ): Advanced
Robbs, Steven (WJØC): Beginner, Fundamental

Robinson, Gregg (KA7MDM): Fundamental
Sammarco, Rich (KN4CQB): Beginner
Schrader, Bill (K2TNO): Fundamental
Severance, Carlton (W4IF): Beginner
Silverthorn, Eric (NM5M): Beginner
Slater, David (WA3SCM): Beginner
Smith, Roland (K7OJL): Beginner
Spencer, Joe (KK5NA): Intermediate, Advanced
Strassburger, Dick (N9EEE): Beginner
Tarlow, Buz: (AC6AC): (Beginner, Fundamental, Intermediate, Advanced
Tyler, Mark: (K5GQ): Intermediate, Advanced
Volmer, Vincent (PE2V): Intermediate
Ward, Dallas (K1DW): Fundamental

Catalan

Forcada, Mikel (EA5IYL): Fundamental
Lladó Sabater, Xisco (EC6PG): Beginner

German

Bundschuh, Markus (DM6BU): Fundamental
Gutheil, Lutz (DM6EE): Beginner
Hahn, Michael (DL7UGN): Fundamental
Hanschmann, Klaus (DL8TG): Beginner
Rauhut, Matthias (DF2OF): Intermediate
Schauff, Ralf (DL1RS): Intermediate

Greek

Martsoukakis, Giannis (SV1PMQ): Intermediate

Polish

Krasuski, Tomasz (SQ5TK): Fundamental
Rusiecki, Jakub (SP5NZF): Beginner

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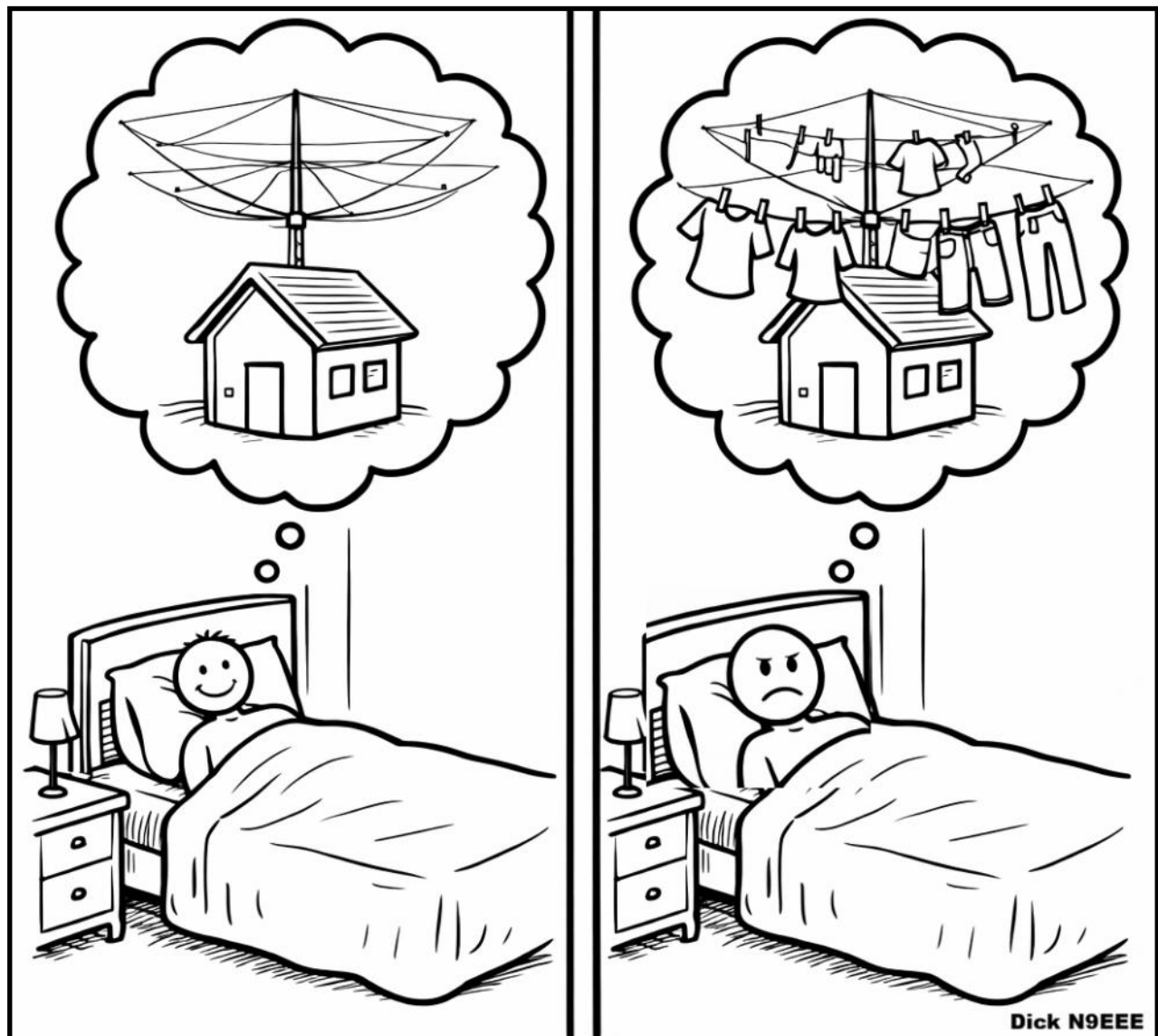
If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments please contact either Bob Carter WR7Q (kcgator@gmail.com) or Roland Smith K7OJL (rolandksmith@gmail.com)

73, Roland, K7OJL

CWA Co-Admin

SC

Hamming It Up



CWops Tests (CWTs)

[Rich Ferch, VE3KI](#)

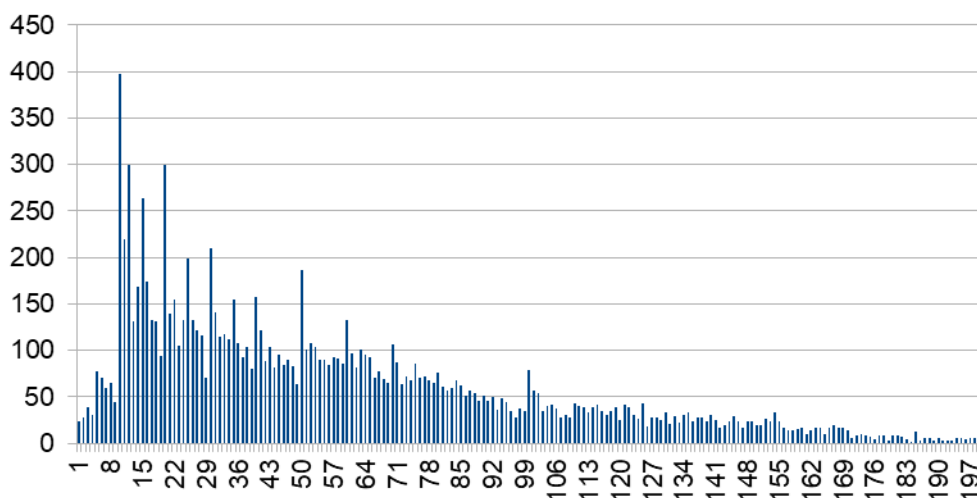
At the end of the first quarter of 2026, we have completed 50 out of the 210 CWTs for 2026. One person, Phil K4PQC, has submitted scores in all 50. That perfect record is nothing new for Phil; he did the same thing throughout 2023 and 2024 (208 out of 208 CWTs both years). Other frequent participants this year so far include KO4VT and N3JT at 49 CWTs, and KØVBU, NB7O and PA3AAV at 48 CWTs.

Instead of counts of the number of CWTs participated in, some of us may be interested in counts of the total number of QSOs reported. The two leaders in QSOs by quite a large margin are Chas K3WW with 8583 QSOs and Bud AA3B with 8446 QSOs. Both Chas and Bud made these QSO totals while participating in only 34 of the 50 CWTs (neither one reported any 0700Z scores, and each missed a couple of the 0300Z sessions). The highest score posted so far this year is 289 QSOs, by K3WW on March 4 at 1300Z, and the highest score in every one of the 1300Z and 1900Z CWTs and in all but two of the 0300Z CWTs so far in 2026 was posted by either K3WW or AA3B.

Of course, these high QSO totals were made possible by large numbers of participants making more modest scores. In the twelve 1300Z CWTs so far this year there have been 3,971 scores and 246,442 QSOs reported, with a median (50th percentile) QSO count of 50. For 1900Z, there have been 4,335 scores and 273,725 QSOs, with a median QSO count of 51. In the thirteen 0300Z CWTs, the numbers are 2,734 scores and 177,172 QSOs, with a median count of 51, and for 0700Z, they are 1097 scores and 40,219 QSOs, with a median count of 28.

The most popular QSO scores are well below the median, though, as illustrated in this graph:

Distribution of Reported QSO Counts in CWTs
1st quarter 2026



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By far the most popular QSO score reported is 10 QSOs, followed by 12 and 20 QSOs (tied), then 15, 30, 25 and 50 QSOs. There are also noticeable peaks at round number scores of 35, 40, 60, 70 and 100 QSOs. The prevalence of round number scores is fascinating; are there other pursuits where participants like to stop after making a round number score rather than continuing to try to achieve a higher score?

The peak at 10 QSOs corresponds with the number of QSOs required to earn a point towards a CWT participation award (certificate or medallion), and this is not a coincidence. In those parts of the world outside North America and Europe where the qualification threshold for a participation point is 5 QSOs, the two most popular reported scores are 6 and 5 QSOs.

Participation in the four CWT sessions varies geographically. The most popular CWT session in North America is the 1900Z session, followed by 1300Z and 0300Z. In Europe, 1900Z also leads, followed by 1300Z and 0700Z. In Oceania (KH6 and VK), the most popular CWTs are at 0300Z and 0700Z. There are too few participants from Africa and South America to support conclusions about popularity of the various CWT sessions there, but in Asia (especially the Far East), the most popular CWT session is at 1300Z. This follows immediately after the A1Club AWT from Japan. I'd encourage NA and EU participants in the 1300Z CWTs to keep a special watch out for JA stations, especially at the beginning of the 1300Z session.

As an interesting side note, there is one reported CWT score from a maritime mobile station so far this year: N4ML/MM made 6 QSOs in the 1900Z CWT on March 18 while on the way back to civilization from his adventure at 3YØK (Bouvet I.).

Enjoy the CWTs and keep those reported scores coming!

73, Rich VE3KI (CWops #783)
CWT Manager

2026 CWops Test (CWT) Schedule

Wednesdays at 1300 – 1400z and 1900 – 2000z. Thursdays at 0300 – 0400z and 0700 – 0800z.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Week 1	1	4-5	4-5	1-2	7-8	3-4	1-2	5-6	2-3	1	4-5	2-3
Week 2	7-8	11-12	11-12	8-9	13-14	10-11	8-9	12-13	9-10	7-8	11-12	9-10
Week 3	14-15	18-19	18-19	15-16	20-21	17-18	15-16	19-20	16-17	14-15	18-19	16-17
Week 4	21-22	25-26	25-26	22-23	27-28	24-25	22-23	26-27	23-24	21-22	25-26	23-24
Week 5	28-29			29-30			29-30		30	28-29		30-31

CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland](#), WØTG



Monthly Update

During March, 15 additional members submitted logs, increasing the number of active participants in the awards program to 197.

The **ACA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of March 2026 have **KR2Q** in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 196 QSOs. The top ten ACA totals this month are: **(1) KR2Q, (2) AA3B, (3) KY4GS (4) K3WW, (5 Tie) N5RZ, (5 Tie) NA8V, (6) KO4VW, (7) N7US, (8) WT9U, (9) KG9X and (10) OM2VL**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 527 QSOs.

The **ACMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of March 2026 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **KR2Q** by 325 QSOs. The top ten ACMA totals this month are: **(1) AA3B, (2) KR2Q, (3) K3WW, (4) N5RZ, (5) KY4GS, (6) OM2VL, (7) NA8V, (8) KC7V, (9) KO4VW and (10) WT9U**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 1570 QSOs.

The **CMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of March 2026 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **K3WW** by 3573 QSOs. The top ten CMA totals this month are: **(1) AA3B, (2) K3WW, (3) N5RZ, (4) KR2Q, (5) N5ZO, (6) DL6KVA, (7) NA8V, (8) F6HKA, (9) OM2VL and (10) VE3KI**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 7015 QSOs.

The number of participants who have contacted CWops members in 100 or more **DXCC** entities remained at **102** this month.

The number of participants who have accomplished CWops **WAS** remained at **291** this month.

You can see complete rankings for all award categories at <https://cwops.telegraphy.de/scores>.

CWops Award Tools Participation

At the end of 2025 we had 297 active participants in the Member Awards Program. As of April 1, 2026, we have 197 active participants. If you have not submitted any logs for the Awards Program, please submit them so we can include your scores among the participants.

The Top 100 and the Searchable and Sortable Scores Table show rankings and scores for active participants only. To be an active participant and be included in awards scoring including the ACA, ACMA and CMA competitions, you must have submitted a log during the current year.

To see rankings and scores for both active and inactive participants please use the Score Overview Table where inactive participants are listed with ACA and ACMA scores of zero, but their scores in other categories are listed at the highest level that was previously submitted.

You can see the final 2025 scores or final scores for any other year by going to the Score Overview Table and selecting the desired year from the "Final scores:" list at the top of the page.

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All scores categories on the page will then show the final scores and standings for the end of the selected year.

The Searchable and Sortable Table can graph your current year's ACA scores by date and allows you to compare your progression to that of others. Check the Plot button for the calls you wish to see plotted and they will all appear on the same graph.

The CWops Award Tools website main page provides a means of printing your CWT Participation Certificate. You may request a downloadable certificate by clicking the "CWT certificate download" selection at the top of the page. For more information about CWT Participation Awards, please go to <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/>.

CWops Member Awards Program Overview

Several operating awards are available for contacting CWops members. These include **Annual Competition Award (ACA)** recognizing the total number of CWops members contacted during the current year, **Annual Cumulative Membership Award (ACMA)** counting QSOs with members on all bands (once per band) during the current year, **Cumulative Membership Award (CMA)** counting QSOs with members on all bands (once per band) since January 3, 2010, **CWops WAS** award for contacting members in all 50 states, **CWops DXCC** award for contacting members in countries on the ARRL DXCC list, **CWops WAE** award for contacting members in Europe, and **CWops WAZ** award for contacting members in each of the 40 CQ zones. All contacts must be via CW and between current CWops members. To qualify for these awards, you must submit your logs via the tool at the CWops Award Tools [website](#) . You can also print out your awards certificates at that same website.

A set of tools for managing your awards status is provided on the CWops Award Tools website and if you regularly upload your logs your awards will be automatically tracked for you. To view complete data for all currently active participants and see where you and others rank among active participants in the awards program, use the [online tools](#). For more details on the tools provided, see the [August 2021 Solid Copy](#) article.

Please Join Us!

Fabian, DJ5CW, who created the website and the tools, made it extremely easy to participate in the awards program.

If you are not among the CWops members who are currently participating, please join us! It adds a lot of friendly competition and fun to your operating.

More Information

View our website for more information on the [CWops Awards Program](#). Send your feedback, questions or comments to cwopscam@w0tg.com.

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Here are the Top 100 ACA, ACMA and CMA QSO totals as of April 1, 2026.

ACA

Rank	Call	ACA
1	KR2Q	1418
2	AA3B	1222
3	KY4GS	1152
4	K3WW	1042
5	N5RZ	988
5	NA8V	988
6	KO4VW	940
7	N7US	937
8	WT9U	917
9	KG9X	904
10	OM2VL	891
11	W4CMG	876
12	W8FN	872
13	K7QA	871
14	KC7V	862
15	N5TJ	802
16	K1AJ	788
17	F6HKA	785
18	KT5V	733
19	AA2IL	729
20	K3QP	713
21	N5KD	689
22	EA6EJ	676
23	K1VUT	675
24	K9WX	661
25	K6NR	655
26	DL6KVA	653
27	KC3M	650
28	VE3TM	640
29	KM4FO	632
30	W4WF	631
31	NJ3K	621
32	NA4J	620
33	W0UO	605
34	WS7L	604
34	KW1X	604
35	WN7S	593
36	N2UU	573
37	VK2GR	571
38	K3JT	558
38	K3ZA	558
39	W5AL	557
39	NE2V	557

ACMA

Rank	Call	ACMA
1	AA3B	3685
2	KR2Q	3360
3	K3WW	2868
4	N5RZ	2748
5	KY4GS	2687
6	OM2VL	2358
7	NA8V	2324
8	KC7V	2253
9	KO4VW	2168
10	WT9U	2115
11	K7QA	2093
12	N7US	2028
13	KG9X	2022
14	W4CMG	1843
15	W8FN	1720
16	K1AJ	1674
17	N5TJ	1595
18	F6HKA	1544
19	DL6KVA	1453
20	EA6EJ	1447
21	K1VUT	1418
22	AA2IL	1376
23	WS7L	1313
24	K6NR	1275
25	N5KD	1238
26	KT5V	1220
26	KC3M	1220
27	K9WX	1215
28	NA4J	1201
29	N2UU	1196
30	W0UO	1193
31	N5XE	1187
32	KM4FO	1134
33	W0VX	1118
34	W4WF	1109
35	W5AL	1102
36	VE3TM	1079
37	K3QP	1033
38	KW1X	1032
39	KW7Q	1031
40	WN7S	1006
41	NJ3K	982
42	K1TR	978

CMA

Rank	Call	CMA
1	AA3B	15417
2	K3WW	11844
3	KR2Q	11002
4	N5RZ	10997
5	N5ZO	10698
6	DL6KVA	10509
7	NA8V	10054
8	F6HKA	9491
9	OM2VL	8643
10	VE3KI	8402
11	KG9X	8257
12	KC7V	8211
13	K7QA	8192
14	N7US	8086
15	N5AW	7732
16	W9ILY	7682
17	WT9U	7558
18	KY4GS	7334
19	K1VUT	7244
20	W0VX	7183
21	K3JT	7018
22	N5TJ	6922
23	K9WX	6887
24	K6NR	6526
25	W4WF	6520
26	SM6CUK	6285
27	N1DC	6280
28	WT3K	6253
29	N2UU	6232
30	WN7S	6141
31	K4IU	6108
32	KO4VW	6016
33	W8FN	5958
34	AA5JF	5802
35	9A1AA	5793
36	VE3TM	5672
37	W0UO	5653
38	G4BUE	5568
39	NJ3K	5563
40	AC6ZM	5544
41	K1SM	5446
42	NA4J	5389
43	K1AJ	5385

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ACA

40	N5XE	553
40	K1TR	553
41	F5SGI	520
42	K1SM	511
43	VE3KI	509
44	K4TZ	506
45	W0VX	502
46	KW7Q	496
47	AA5JF	495
48	SM6CUK	487
49	W9CF	480
50	VE9KK	473
51	KV8Q	458
52	EA6BF	457
52	K4IU	457
53	WA4JUK	456
54	N3CKI	453
55	VE3KIU	449
56	EA3NO	441
57	N5ER	438
58	W9ILY	437
59	WU6P	425
60	DF7TV	419
61	N5ZO	414
62	NE5A	411
63	K9CW	408
64	KR3E	402
65	K1RF	388
66	AF5J	387
66	W6AYC	387
67	M0RYB	385
68	DJ5CW	383
69	KB8GAE	382
70	W2VM	379
71	HB9ARF	372
72	N2EIM	371
73	K4GM	365
74	W0TG	351
75	KE4CR	349
76	KM4JEG	342
77	WM4Q	334
78	WE4AUB	328
79	WA5RML	318
79	W8EWH	318
79	W2CDO	318
80	KC3MAL	310
81	K8XCO	303
82	W7LG	302
83	DM6EE	300

ACMA

43	VK2GR	962
44	SM6CUK	959
44	EA6BF	959
45	K3JT	954
46	K3ZA	941
47	NE2V	932
48	W9CF	910
49	F5SGI	894
49	AA5JF	894
50	K4IU	879
51	VE3KI	871
52	K4TZ	837
53	N5ER	823
54	VE9KK	783
55	K9CW	782
56	K1SM	777
57	VE3KIU	776
58	AF5J	760
59	DJ5CW	758
60	WU6P	753
61	W9ILY	734
62	KV8Q	729
63	W0TG	728
64	M0RYB	725
65	WS1L	723
66	N3CKI	711
67	K1RF	680
68	EA3NO	666
69	N5ZO	632
70	DF7TV	630
71	WA4JUK	629
72	WA5RML	613
73	G3NKC	608
74	K4GM	607
75	W6AYC	604
76	WM4Q	597
77	KR3E	589
78	W2VM	581
79	KC3MAL	576
80	NE5A	545
81	KM4JEG	538
82	W8EWH	532
83	PA2TA	523
84	KB8GAE	518
85	KE4CR	511
86	HB9ARF	504
87	WE4AUB	495
87	DM6EE	495
88	LY2MM	492

CMA

44	N5XE	5369
45	AA2IL	5352
46	GW0ETF	5298
47	KT5V	5038
48	WS7L	5027
49	F6JOE	4990
50	K3QP	4967
51	WA4JUK	4944
52	VK2GR	4941
53	DM6EE	4868
54	K4GM	4836
55	OK1RR	4790
56	DF7TV	4773
57	EA6BF	4754
58	W4CMG	4752
59	VE3MV	4614
60	DJ5CW	4608
61	KC4WQ	4571
62	OZ3SM	4545
63	KM4FO	4541
64	N5KD	4509
65	W6AYC	4454
66	F5SGI	4424
67	WS1L	4247
68	W0TG	4237
69	G4PVM	4190
70	KW7Q	4178
71	WU6P	4162
72	AF5J	4152
73	K0TC	4106
74	KV8Q	4103
75	NE2V	4075
76	EA6EJ	4067
77	NE5A	4044
78	W2CDO	4040
79	N1EN	4032
80	W3WHK	4022
81	KK0U	3988
82	M0RYB	3986
83	KR3E	3842
84	KC3M	3807
85	SM0HEV	3768
86	N3CKI	3766
87	K4TZ	3725
88	HB9ARF	3683
89	K3ZA	3633
90	KW1X	3510
91	K2YR	3413
92	4X6GP	3354

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ACA

84	KK0U	294
85	GW0ETF	289
86	WS1L	287
87	LY2MM	279
87	F6JOE	279
87	AC3RA	279
87	KT4XN	279
88	SP4JFR	278
89	PA2TA	276
89	W3WHK	276
90	K9CPO	269
91	WA5PFJ	267
92	AA3TZ	264
93	IN3FHE	262
94	G4PVM	259
95	WT3K	258
96	G4IZZ	254
96	KC8J	254
97	KB4DE	247
98	K0TC	246
99	K2YR	244
100	VE3MV	243

ACMA

89	G4PVM	488
90	IN3FHE	486
91	G4IZZ	467
92	F6JOE	465
93	W2CDO	446
94	VE3MV	445
95	W3WHK	438
96	AC3RA	434
96	SP4JFR	434
97	SP7OGP	429
98	W7LG	414
98	SM0HEV	414
99	IT9VDQ	410
99	N5AW	410
100	KK0U	406

CMA

93	G3LDI	3350
94	W5AL	3280
95	IT9VDQ	3255
96	G3NKC	3240
97	W2VM	3224
98	W8OV	3217
99	W9CF	3212
100	W7GF	3161

73, Bill WØTG (CWops #1873)
CWops Operating Awards

XXT Schedule

SPEED	XST	DAY	TIME (UTC)	EXCHANGE	SPONSOR LINK
20 - 25	MST	Monday	1300 - 1400z	Name + QSO serial number	International CW Coun-
20 - 25	MST	Monday	1900 - 2000z	Name + QSO serial number	International CW Coun-
20 - 25	MST	Tuesday	0300 - 0400z	Name + QSO serial number	International CW Coun-
QRS	AWT	Wednesday	1145 - 1200z	RST + Name	A1Club
20+ wpm	AWT	Wednesday	1200 - 1300z	RST + Name	A1Club
25+ wpm	CWT	Wednesday	1300 - 1400z	Name + CWops # (or S/P/C)	CWops
25+ wpm	CWT	Wednesday	1900 - 2000z	Name + CWops # (or S/P/C)	CWops
25+ wpm	CWT	Thursday	0300 - 0400z	Name + CWops # (or S/P/C)	CWops
25+ wpm	CWT	Thursday	0700 - 0800z	Name + CWops # (or S/P/C)	CWops
< 20 wpm	SST	Friday	2000 - 2100z	Name + S/P/C	K1USN
< 20 wpm	SST	Monday	0000 - 0100z	Name + S/P/C	K1USN



QTX: Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[Dan Romanchik](#), KB6NU

March was another great month of ragchewing for CWops. G3EEC and N3 JT have joined the list. Keep up the good work!

73, Dan KB6NU (CWops #1418)



N9FZ: Better late than never. Some good chats and several while mobile.

N2DA: Enjoyed numerous ragchew sked QSOs this month.

K8WWS: A couple were for an hour. Both were very enjoyable and challenging.

DG5CW: Great to be back in the mix! Having my home QTH 40m antenna back in the air means I can finally join the fun again, rather than just waiting for my next portable outing. 73!

AJ1DM: I'm a little light on QTX this month, due to travel. But I had the significant accomplishment of a 70-minute QSO with Mary, VE3INE to help her earn the SKCC Marathon award. GL Mary!

VE3INE: Almost all my ragchew QSOs this month were sked QSOs. I got an email dated March 21 from an operator whom I had 2 QTX and 1 mQTX QSOs this year. They write, "I just wanted to drop a note and let you know that I signed up for CW Academy at CWops. . . . Hearing your prowess on CW was the final encouragement I needed to take the plunge and take a structured course."

AE4GS: Heard a station on 10 meters calling CQ with no takers and I didn't know the country of his callsign. I looked it up while he continued to call CQ. It was Zambia! I had nice QSO with Brian in Lusaka, Zambia.

N9EEE: So, they told me that when I retired I would have more time for ragchewing.

AA0YY: Another great month in ragchewing this month. Well I work a very memorable QSO this month, I won't mention any callsigns as to not embarrass DAN but ya'll know him. We didn't have a typical QSO with the rig/wx/ant, blah blah blah, but we spoke of pork chops, potatoes, prepared either in an oven with shake and bake, or fried in a pan, chops and tators in same pan, throw in some onions. What a meal! I left that QSO hungry and I had just ate! I also discovered that when a callsign has a B6 in it, I can't get one of the two characters right. try it. CU next month.

AB0WW: Two QTXs with Mike in Portland, the first as KF6YAL, and 10 days later with his new call KK7D.

KE7IR: Had a very nice, 20 + minute QSO with K6RB as part of the GB program on March 13.

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N8AI: N5TOO (38 min) has fantastic sketch of him at the radios drawn by his grand daughter. posted on his QRZ page. What a QSL card that would make!

WG9P: There was plenty of ragchewing activity on 30- and 40-meters, but propagation was up and down all month. I can't help but notice that nearly all my QSOs were with operators my age (67) or older. This makes for great QSOs but shows me we need to encourage the young blood to get more active in CW ragchewing. Maybe those in clubs could encourage the younger members to try CW.

KG5IE: Several really nice ragchews again this month but some just seem to flow and you get into a great conversation that is just natural. That's what happened with Bill, KA1RVM. We both were using fan dipoles and got into a discussion about the antennas and what bands we have on them.

KB6NU: Hit my target of 1 QTX per day, even though I was out of town for four days earlier in the month. I had two QTX with WZ2J, KD1MD, and K5IRH.

KR2Q: Another low volume QTX month for me.

G3EEC: Life got in the way of CW somewhat during 2025 and I really needed to get back into it so this year I've been trying to get the QSO's flowing again. The number submitted is for 2026 to date. January was solid, things dropped off again in Feb with life getting in the way and back on it March. Hoping for a better April. VY 73 all.



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QTX - March 2026

<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>
VE3INE	152	KB6NU	32	N2DA	13	ABØWW	5
AAØYY	55	WS1L	3Ø	KR2Q	12	K8WWS	5
N7HCN	42	W1SIM	20	AJ1DM	8	KN5EE	5
N8AI	41	KG5IEE	17	K8UDH	8	W8OV	5
WG9P	37	KY4GS	15	N3JT	8	AE4GS	4
WA4IAR	33	G4KKU	13	DG5CW	7	N9EEE	4

mQTX - March 2026

<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>
AAØYY	40	G3EEC	17	N3JT	10	G4KKU	3
KY4GS	36	DG5CW	16	WA4IAR	10	VE3INE	3
WS1L	34	KB6NU	15	N9FZ	5	W8OV	3
N8AI	30	GWØETF	14	AJ1DM	4	ABØWW	2
KG5IEE	18	KR2Q	14	N9EEE	4	AE4GS	2
						KE7IR	2
						KE7IR	2
						N7HCN	2
						WG9P	2
						K8UDH	1

QTX - Total 2026

<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>
VE3INE	332	KB6NU	79	G4KKU	31	N9EEE	10
AAØYY	187	K9OZ	59	KN5EE	26	K8WWS	9
N7HCN	158	KCØVKN	58	AE4GS	22	DG5CW	8
WG9P	123	KR2Q	57	K2MZ	16	N3JT	8
N8AI	112	N2DA	46	K8UDH	15	KW4NJA	6
WA4IAR	92	KG5IEE	45	W8OV	14	K6DGW	5
WS1L	88	W1SIM	43	ABØWW	12	G3EEC	3
KY4GS	81	KF9VV	40	N9FZ	12	WB3EGD	3
VE3WH	80	AJ1DM	33	AA3TZ	10	NØBM	2
						W3WHK	2
						WE5J	2
						KE7IR	1
						KM4JEG	1
						N5LB	1
						SV2BBK	1

mQTX - Total 2026

<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>
KY4GS	154	WA4IAR	38	DG5CW	19	KW4NJA	10
AAØYY	122	GWØETF	37	WG9P	17	SV2BBK	10
WS1L	100	KF9VV	33	G3EEC	17	N7HCN	9
N8AI	95	VE3WH	31	AJ1DM	11	K2MZ	9
KCØVKN	82	G4KKU	28	WE5J	11	N9EEE	9
KR2Q	73	KB4DE	22	AE4GS	10	W8OV	8
KB6NU	55	VE3INE	20	ABØWW	10	K6DGW	7
KG5IEE	40	N9FZ	20	N3JT	10	NØBM	5
						K8UDH	4
						AA3TZ	4
						KE7IR	4
						KM4JEG	4
						K8WWS	2
						W1SIM	1
						PE2V	1



My Story: New Member Introductions

Compiled by [Tim Gennett, K9WX](#) (CWops #1462)

Andy Bock, DL8XAB CWops #3899

Thank you for welcoming me to CWops as member #3899! I am very excited to be part of this great community.

My ham radio journey started in the 1980s when I was 14. I stumbled upon the QSL cards of my father (DJ9HT, now silent key) and was absolutely fascinated by his international contacts. Having received my first electronics kit at the age of 7, I quickly decided to become a ham myself. In those pre-internet days, I taught myself by spending countless hours in the local library, reading every book I could find to prepare for the exam.

Since CW was a mandatory part of the test back then, I grabbed my father's old Junker straight key, soldered together a simple tone generator, and started practicing my sending. For receiving, I actually wrote my own computer program to practice character recognition. It paid off: I got my first license in 1990 (DH2HAB, 6 wpm) and passed the 12 wpm test a year later to get my full license, DL8X-AB. I was still in school, saved up for a used Kenwood TS-820s, and built my own antennas (Yagis, GPs, and longwires).

I was very active throughout the 1990s, but due to a relocation in the mid-2000s, I could rarely get on the air. This eventually led to an almost 20-year break from the hobby.

Fortunately, the "radio bug" bit me again, and I returned to the airwaves in August 2025! I started off operating portable from our motorhome while traveling through Europe. Just in time for Christmas 2025, I finally set up a home station at my QTH in Ellerbek northwest of Hamburg (DARC Club Uetersen, DOK M21) with a 23m EndFed, a Keleman dipole, a Yaesu FT-710, and a FlexRadio 8400.

When I returned to the hobby, my main goal was to get back into CW with better skills, higher speeds, and to transition from my old straight key to a paddle (I am now using a Begali Pearl). The CW Academy Advanced Class was a fantastic opportunity to refresh and elevate my proficiency! I am also just getting into contesting and am currently organizing a local contest group with some friends from my club, where we definitely plan to operate CW.

Outside of amateur radio, my other great passion is wreck and cave diving. I am a Technical Diving Instructor and Instructor Trainer—I really enjoy training future instructors. I share this passion with my wife, who is an instructor as well. We also love going on gravel bike tours together. My next project is building a ham radio setup that fits into my bicycle panniers so I can easily do POTA activations during our rides.



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I still absolutely love paper QSL cards and will gladly exchange them via the bureau, though I also use eQSL, QRZ, and LoTW.

Thank you again for having me. I look forward to many great QSOs and catching you in the CWTs!

Leopold “Leo” von Bismarck – DL2COM CWops #3885

Hi, my name is Leo (43 years old, married with two kids aged 5 and 7), and my amateur radio journey began when I got licensed in September 2021. However, my interest in communication technology goes back to my childhood, when I built a simple intercom system with a cable across the roof in order to chat with my friend next door.

Later, I joined the Signal Corps during mandatory military service in Germany and then moved to Berlin to study Industrial Engineering with a major in Information and Communication Technology. Since then, I have made a career in entrepreneurship, building companies from scratch and helping others scale theirs. Our last company is called tado° (<https://www.tado.com/en>) and offers solutions for homeowners and tenants to improve their comfort while saving on energy costs: smart thermostats for HVAC systems – similar to the US company Nest.

During lockdown in 2020, two things happened: I randomly watched a SOTA activation video of Adam K6ARK sending dits and dahs from a mountaintop, and then many more similar videos from Tom K4SWL. At the same time, I was searching for a solid radio solution for fishing trips on our local lake, which has no cell phone reception. That sparked the idea to get a license and also start SWLing. After a couple of years experimenting with all sorts of ham radio-related projects, I fell in love with CW, especially in combination with QRP *OTA activating and later DXing (two microlight all-CW DXpeditions done to 3A and HB0) and contesting. The mostly predefined nature of a SOTA or POTA QSO helped me lose on-air anxiety quickly, and I became a passionate CW operator, with 82% of my entire log in that mode.

I regularly write about special activations on my friend Thomas' blog QRPer.com. Two highlights of my CW journey:

<https://qrper.com/2024/07/mount-athos-qrp-morse-code/>

<https://qrper.com/2023/11/dits-and-dahs-from-alcatraz-pota-radio-elecraft/>

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Dave Berman, WA2PAY CWops #3886

I would first like to thank Richard WB3EGD, for nominating me. I would also like to thank K9OZ, Bruce; AA3B Bud; and KD2FSH, Gerald for sponsoring my nomination.

Additionally, I would like to thank K9OZ Bruce for being my advisor or teacher in CW Academy.

I was very fortunate to be taught by a master of the craft, who patently offered up the wisdom of his fist to us mere mortals, who would then stare blankly back at him when he asked if any one copied that. He is also responsible for that feeling of joy mixed with relief when he sent the letter R after I correctly sent him back the sentence that he had just sent.

Before ham radio, I was a CB kid. In my high school electronics club, surrounded by licensed hams, I was the outsider—the “chicken band” operator in a room full of real amateurs. One of them, Bob WB2OXJ (SK), invited me to see his attic shack. That visit changed everything

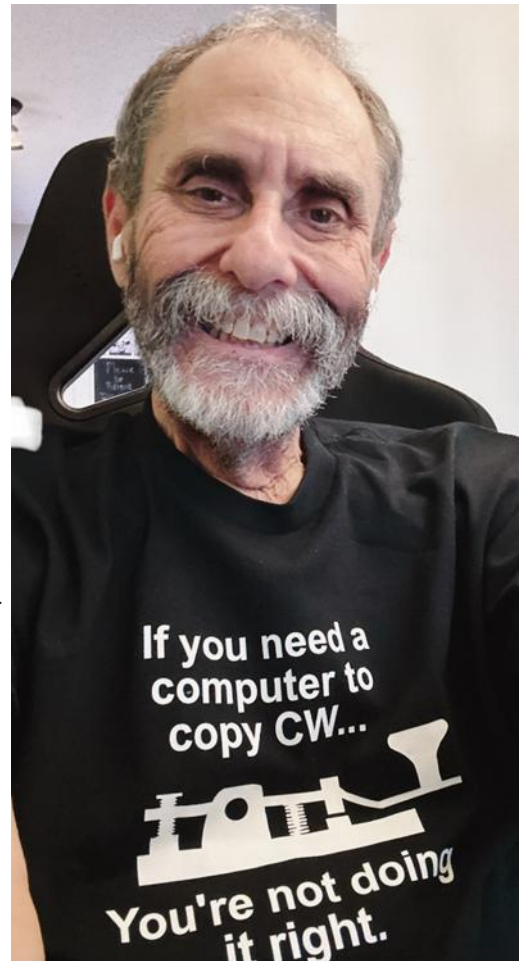
A 40-foot tower with a three-element quad stood outside. Inside, a Heathkit DX 60B was being keyed by an 8 inch reel to reel tape recorder acting as a homemade memory keyer. Next to it sat a Drake 2 B, the most beautiful receiver I had ever seen. Bob was frustrated that afternoon—“All I’m getting is England. I’m trying for Africa.” Coming from CB, where working the next town felt like DX, I was stunned. That moment planted the seed

I went home determined to learn code. Using a cassette recorder and a Radio Shack oscillator, I made my own practice tape—each letter sent slowly, followed by me speaking it. By the end of the weekend, I knew the characters; by the end of the week I was copying words.

My friend Emil WA2BJF thought I was ready for the Novice test. We visited Frank WB2OBD (SK), who asked to hear what I had. He sent some code, I copied it and handed him the paper. Only afterward did I learn he had sent the actual test. I had passed. I left 11 meters behind for good.

A year later I took my General exam at the FCC office in New York City. The waiting room was full of serious adults—white shirts, ties, slide rules, and conversations about Colpitts oscillators. I felt completely out of place, but amateur radio rewards.

Decades later, approaching retirement, I returned to CW with a new goal: head copy. I practiced using the CW “Quote of the Day” podcast during my commute. At 20 wpm it sometimes felt like it might cause a nosebleed, but eventually the letters blended into words. I could head copy.



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Two close friends became Silent Keys, and I inherited parts of their stations. Exploring their equipment, I discovered APF—Audio Peak Filtering—which made weak CW signals leap out of the noise. It felt like discovering a new sense.

Joining CW Academy connected me with a group of operators who shared the same goals. We practiced together, encouraged each other, and today we still meet on the air—at home and portable. I also rediscovered the pleasure of a real CW ragchew, something the old Rag Chewers Club celebrated with the phrase “The Old Sock.”

Fifty years after climbing the stairs to Bob’s attic shack, I still hear the same magic. Dots and dashes become letters, letters become words, and somewhere in that rhythm is the spark that started it all.

Geoff Valentine, GØUVX CWops #3908

Thank you for accepting me into the CWops family – which is a great honour. And also, many thanks for Buz, (AC6AC) for the nomination, and also Bud, AA3B, Stuart, GDØUD, and Kirk, KD1MD for sponsorship. Also, the CWops co-advisors for their support.

I was first licenced in 1994 – after being talked into the hobby. Although this was not the first time I used Morse to send messages. In 1975, after a 3 year college course to gain the MRGC and Radar maintenance certification – I joined the British merchant navy as a Radio Officer – after further college time I was then promoted to Radio Electronics Officer. This last promotion ensured that I would spend time in the vessels engine room fixing and maintaining electronic equipment, plus all radio room and bridge equipment, as well as maintaining an 8-hour watch whilst at sea. I thoroughly enjoyed my ten years sailing the oceans and visiting some really exotic places, as well as the not so pleasant ones!!



After leaving the sea I was employed with a marine electronics company in Falmouth Cornwall, where I stayed for five years. After that I gained employment with two government communications departments, spanning 22 and 12 years respectively – this from DC to light. I finally retired end of March 2025 – although I did want to carry on for a few more years, my partner Marion decided that I had done my bit and time for a rest. We both like travel so getting that in before the onset of old age is one of our priorities.

We currently have quite a large garden – so I am able to field both a Hexbeam up 40 foot on a mast, plus a doublet for the lower bands. The latter does not need an ATU, as I have managed to tune it to the different bands by the use of relays, switchable from the shack. I run an FTDX10 with an ACOM 1010 – the latter only used to get through when needed.

Look forward to hearing you on the airways.

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Dave Immel, KE4EW CWops #3894

I count it a privilege to have become a CWops member recently. I appreciate Buz, AC6AC, my course advisor, and all the co-advisors who were patient and kind to our group throughout our Advanced course. Also, to my sponsors, I am very grateful as well.

I was born and raised in Northeast Ohio. I can't remember where it came from, but my folks ended up with an old radio that they let me keep in my room. I frequently listened to it, and I discovered that it had a third knob that wasn't present on most other AM sets. I soon learned that it was a

switch that took me to a shortwave band where I discovered shortwave broadcasts along with ham operators talking. I was fascinated with hearing all the stations from faraway places. That began my life-long journey into ham radio. I learned that a buddy of mine was also interested in radio. We became friends with our school janitor, who was a ham, and he ended up mentoring us along the way. We worked at learning the code and the Novice regulations; he gave us our test, and we were on our way.

It was a grueling wait for about six weeks before we finally had our tickets in hand. I had a paper route at the time, so I saved my money and bought an old used S-38 Hallicrafters receiver and a Heathkit QF-1A Q-multiplier kit. I also purchased a few parts for a transmitter I built on an old TV chassis, along with three crystals and some coax. I was all set. CW was a true way of life for us newbies back then and for a many of us, it has stayed with us over the years.

Like most hams, over time I had periods when hamming was a low priority, and I had some periods of inactivity. My work in aviation maintenance took my family and I overseas for periods of time on several occasions over the years. Of course, I took ham gear along and logged a lot of contacts from those faraway places I once listened to as a kid. When I retired several years ago, I got back into my favorite mode, CW, but felt a bit rusty. I've wanted to be a part of CWops for some time so I thought that taking the CWA course would help sharpen my rusty Morse skills and perhaps be a door to joining this unique group. Both have been accomplished.

I've thoroughly enjoyed ham radio over the years, and it has, in a few cases, been an influence on some of my major life decisions. It has also helped me in my work in the aviation field. I've met loads of interesting people, many who have become life-long mentors and friends. We have three grown daughters and they along with one son-in-law are hams. Hopefully a few of my grandkids will follow as I endeavor to mentor them along.

I hope to meet you on the air.



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Denise Woodford, VA7YE CWops #3880

Thank you to Joe Spencer KK5NA for nominating me, and to Hank Garretson W6SX, Mark Tyler K5GQ, and John "Kilohertz" Fiorino N4KHz for sponsoring me. And a special thank you to Vic DiCiccio, VE3YT, for teaching me those very first characters, helping me get on the air, and for telling me about CW Academy.

I discovered CW Academy isn't just about learning Morse code. It's about people giving their time, coaching each other, helping each other, and cheering each other on. I experienced the very best of that spirit.

I was licensed in 2011 and assigned my father's callsign, VE7QYR, after he became a silent key. In 2016 I was assigned a second callsign, VA7YE. In 2025 I passed the exam for Advanced qualifications.

The mystique of sending Morse code over the airwaves intrigued me and still does. There is always that little thrill when sending out my call sign and hearing a response. I am most interested in special events, short contests, and I hope to participate in POTA this year.

Away from radio, I enjoy leatherwork and like to make leather handbags and knife sheaths. I dabble in stained glass and quilt making. If the weather is nice, I want to be in the garden.

I am proud to be CWops #3880 and hope to meet many of you on the air!



Julian Vasile, DL3PLG CWops #3906

I was born and lived until the age of 27 in Romania - an east-European country, in a relatively small city on the Danube River.

From an early age I was interested in the physics and technical understanding of natural processes. At six, I kept my own "invention" notebook, using the level of understanding I had at the time. For example, one of my "inventions" was to insert strong repelling magnets into the bumps of cars to minimise the risk of accidents.

At the age of eight, my father, a former CW operator in the army, tried to teach me Morse code and even gave me my first straight key. Unfortunately, I had no audio oscillator (not to mention a real transmitter). At that time, Romania was still a communist country with a very active internal security service, and on-air transmitting (and even listening of west world radio transmission) was a highly restricted activity reserved just for a few. Nevertheless, I tried to communicate with a



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friend and a neighbour in Morse code by pulling two wires between our houses and using an old flashlight bulb to generate light. The project failed when the wires short-circuited and discharged the battery.

I studied shipbuilding and have worked for 27 years in that field at various shipyards in the northern hemisphere of Europe. At some point, I settled with my family in Germany - Kiel, where I live today. I have a family with three wonderful girls (thanks to their mother) and, besides ham radio, a passion for beekeeping. I often operate my portable CW rig in the middle of the beehives in my garden, which is located in an old German prisoner-of-war camp (it even contains an imploded bunker with one metre thick concrete walls). The site has been transformed into a gardening compound with beautiful flowers, vegetables, and (my) buzzing bees.

My radio interests began with some electronic projects in the field of LoRa WAN in 2015. Although I do not have a formal electronics degree, I enjoy building a variety of projects--from Raspberry Pi and Arduino setups to more complex devices such as the QMX+ (2022). In 2018, I discovered the world of shortwave listening (SWL) using an RTL SDR stick and improvised antennas. Later the stick became a full band SDR Duo (with better performance), and I made my first (SWL) contacts with the amateur radio community, which attracted me immediately. I obtained my novice ham license in 2023 and a full ham license a year later.

The radio world is very diverse, with many branches (POTA, SOTA, expeditions, transmitter building, QRP, etc.). From this variety I was drawn to CW, because it provides the human element that is missing in digital modes such as FT8 or PSK31, and it also presents a challenge. Within CW I enjoy the "ragchewing" stage and trying to have longer QSO exchanges. Since I live in a city I cannot install large antennas or towers--my neighbours would not appreciate. This limits my coverage from the start, but CW overcomes the problem by using continuous waves, allowing me to achieve DX satisfaction under good propagation conditions.

I had the great chance to be a student in an intermediate course for learning CW at CW Academy. My first intermediate course was with Bob, WR7Q, who did a great job giving me a first taste of sending and receiving Morse code. Later I decided to take a second intermediate course at CWA, this time again with Buz, AC6AC.

Buz is a very special teacher. He has the charisma of great leaders and a soul full of love for humanity. During the Intermediate and later the Advanced course, I met wonderful CW colleagues, some of them truly exceptional CW operators who stretch the limits of receiving code beyond normal understanding. It is the passion I saw in them that inspired me to keep going even when things were hard. It was even a point when, because of the lack of time, I wanted to quit but Buz, with his fine psychological understanding of the hundreds of student that passed under his key brought me back on the line.

Today I am the very proud owner of CWops membership #3906 (3NT6).

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Coloman Drapos, DK1BZT CWops #3907

I have been interested in ham radio electronics since the early 1970s. It was very difficult to have this special hobby in a country with dictatorial government situated in the middle of the cold war. Despite these circumstances, I have remained true to my hobby.

My SWL activity started in 1976 with a modified short-wave radio as YO2-1098/TM. This was followed by numerous radio homebrew projects and a lot of homemade equipment. Some special DX QSL cards on this novice time are from Japan, Nepal and USA.



I received my full amateur radio License in 1978 as YO2BZT at the age 21. Due to many school, army, family, work and finally more increasing restrictions have kept me away from some ham activities. So, I took a several years break from my hobby.

I have been living in Germany since 1988 and in 2005 I restarted my hobby when I upgraded to my Class A License as DK1BZT. I live with my wife Elvira in a small village in the western suburbs of Nuremberg. We have been married for over 45 years, and she often keeps my back clear. In 2022 I was retired, before worked in automotive engineering as a graduated technician in electronics. We have two children and three grandchildren. Maybe one day one of them will be a CWops member as well.

Morse code has fascinated me since my school days, and my interest in CW has never faded. Since my retirement, I desired to improve my CW skills with help of CW Academy. Last year I have completed the Intermediate course by DARC in DL and in January 2026 the Advanced CW Academy course. I'm very honoured to have been nominated and sponsored into CWops. It was a "once in a lifetime" experience for me. Here a special "Thank you" to Buz, the co-advisors, and to my sponsors for your great job and your empathic manner. You're all awesome!

Beside my enthusiasm for CW, I am very interested in renewable energy, particularly wind and solar energy, such as photovoltaics, solar thermal energy and battery storage.

At the age of 69, keeping CW alive is very close to my heart – together with the many experienced members of this wonderful community.

Hope to catch you soon on the air!

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Charlotte Huyton, MØXCV, CWops #3888

I grew up with ham radio, my dad Stephen G8XDV, is an avid raynet enthusiast: it didn't grow on me early on. I had other interests, like many ham children, I couldn't see the appeal.

Years later, a friend suddenly announced they were taking up amateur radio and that I was going to take it up with her for support. I had flashbacks of ham rallies growing up looking in rusty boxes full of capacitors, I shuddered! All attempts to talk them out of it failed: so, on a foundation course we were both booked.

I am however interested in all things vintage, from Lindy hop dancing to 1940's films, music and styles. I began to wonder if those dits and dahs in old war films could actually mean something? Did the director hide a secret code in the film for us "codies" to understand. This curiosity lead to a fascinating and unexpected journey into Long Island CW Club.

I learned the code and enjoyed the classes, but I wanted to progress faster. I am a great believer in interclub cooperation and many people in LICW suggested I join CWA for their intense courses. I started with the Intermediate which I loved, and now I have just finished the Advanced course with Buz AC6AC. It was nice to see many LICW members on the course and they all helped me feel welcome to the CWA ecosystem. When time came to be nominated, I had a flurry of friends to help.

I particularly like the CWT. I find it interesting to note the propagation as it changes from week to week and session to session. They are also a very welcoming bunch who all again helped sponsor me. I was so nervous on my first CWT I forgot my own call sign half way through sending.

My other ham interests are building and making radio bits (so much for avoiding ham rallies hihi), making antennas and collecting CW keys.

My other interests are vintage knitting, specifically 1930-1940 patterns, thin yarn and long needles. I also like 35mm photography, nothing like real tactile things in this digital world.

In regard to CW, I look forward to working members on the air, I enjoy QRQ or QRS. I am delving into the world of head copy and rag chewing thanks to Buz. I vary my speed dependent on the contact, the content and my mood. Like many others on this journey, some days I can copy at 35, other days I struggle at 12: who knows why? Whatever speed we meet at, may our exchange be interesting, engaging and satisfying to all.



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Randy Hagerdon, N3YYZ CWops #3901

Greetings fellow CW enthusiasts.

As a late career aerospace chemical process engineer, technically focused hobbies have been a long-time interest. SWLing on vacuum tube and hybrid radios were my first interest which led to self-taught restoration efforts. My HT-37 is on the bench awaiting a re-cap and solid-state rectifier replacement. My HF rig setup is a TS-940 and TS 830 with a full set of CW filters in each. Mobile operation happens while camping from my 80s vintage Avion 30P via an FT-817, (w/narrow CW filter).



I hope to get out and activate POTA with you sometime. Other than work, CW and the XYL, when I can, I enjoy golfing, cycling and getting a spit-shine from my Boston Terrier.

A big thanks goes out the CW community – classmates and instructors, (esp. AC6AC, Buz) - it takes a village. I look forward to continuing my CW journey and participation for years to come.

Phil Puzick, KB5EBB CWops #3912

I backed into ham radio. While I was living in Austin, Texas back in the mid-1980s, I flew RC sailplanes. A friend from the model club lamented the recent crash of one of his airplanes. He said, "What a stupid hobby. I had much more fun in amateur radio when I lived in Connecticut."

The next thing I knew, I was in a class given by some local hams to see if I could get my Novice ticket. Unfortunately, I was told to get the ARRL cassette tapes and study for the 5 wpm test. Anyone remember those? Slow motion dits and dahs were sent. The tapes were guaranteed to make you count dits and dahs.

Well, I passed, but just barely the Novice exam. Welcome to the hobby!

Life, as in children and work prevailed. In addition to that, the tapes left me wondering if I could ever understand Morse code. I never used the Novice ticket.



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Fast forward to 2010. I tested and passed both the Technician and General class license tests. I bought a KX3 and a long wire and got on the air. A few years later, I passed the Extra class test.

Pre-Covid - isn't that a marker for everything now - I enrolled in the Beginner Level class of CWops. It was a good class, and I met another amateur from Massachusetts. We continue to be friends ever since. Later, I enrolled in the Intermediate class, however, the five word per minute tapes still had their curse on me along with my former bad habits.

Thank heaven, I discovered the modern CW teaching methods with Farnsworth, etc.

The turning point for me was my enrollment in Buz's AC6AC Advanced class. Buz is a truly inspirational instructor for CWops. He cares not only that his students continue to improve their operating and efficiency in CW but also introduces them to "self-kindness."

Too many of us, it seems, beat ourselves up for our perceived lack of ability to master Morse code.

Buz was kind enough to nominate me and I gained sponsors Charlotte MØXCV, Terry K3JT, and Victor VA2WA through CWT contacts. Thank you all.

Other interests include hiking, fishing and traveling; of course, always making sure family comes first.

Now, I continue my Morse code journey in the company of like-minded CW ops!

Thank you CWops and CW Academy.



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